MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

20 APRIL 1982

Israeli-Egyptian Relations

After two meetings in Jerusalem with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin, Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio that as a result of their talks new ideas had emerged to bridge the gap between the two sides. He expressed hope that a happy conclusion leading to the solution of outstanding issues would soon be achieved. However, no conclusion has yet been reached on the Tabah border demarcation dispute, according to the radio. Noting that 'Ali was returning to Egypt with a letter of reply from Begin to President Husni Mubarak, the radio said the exchange of messages will permit the completion of the withdrawal on time. In their letters, Begin and Mubarak reaffirmed their adherence to the Camp David accords and the application of autonomy to Judaea and Samaria. The radio also reported that Begin was pleased with the outcome of his talks with 'Ali. 'Ali likewise said the talks took place in a "friendly atmosphere" and were "extremely constructive," according to Cairo radio, which quoted 'Ali as stating before his final meeting with Begin that all the existing differences between Egypt and Israel "had almost been settled."

Emphasizing that Egypt adheres to all agreements and treaties, members of the Egyptian delegation said Israel should shake off all fears and worries because the new chapter in bilateral relations will start after 26 April, Jerusalem radio reported. The resumption of relations between Egypt and the Arab world is unrelated to Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai, they indicated, and Egypt's contacts with the Palestinians will continue after 26 April, especially in light of President Mubarak's desire to mediate between Israel and other Arab parties, including the PLO. Meanwhile, a Cairo radio commentary said Israel should not allow the border demarcation dispute to affect the withdrawal from the Sinai on schedule, which will encourage other Arab parties to join the peace process.

Israel

Abu-Hatzera Conviction -- Labor, Social Welfare and Immigrant Absorption Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzera was convicted of breaching confidence, plotting to carry out a crime and stealing while holding an administrative position, Jerusalem radio reported. He was acquitted of three other charges. If Abu-Hatzera is jailed and dismissed from the Knesset, he can nevertheless continue serving as a minister, the radio pointed out.

Yamit Situation -- The IDF has almost completed the evacuation of agricultural settlements in the Yamit district, according to a statement by the commander of the Southern Command reported by Jerusalem radio. The radio noted that the evacuation process would be interrupted on 20 April due to Holocaust memorial ceremonies and that Kakh Movement leader Rabbi Kahane is expected to arrive from the United States in order to persuade his followers in Yamit not to carry out their threats to commit suicide.

Lebanon

A new tactic adopted by the terrorists is to penetrate through UNIFIL-controlled areas in southern Lebanon, plant mines and flee, the Israeli paper HA'ARETZ reported citing southern Lebanese sources. Officers of Maj Sa'd Haddad's Christian militia, who regard these infiltrations as violations of the cease-fire, met on 18 April to consult about possible retaliation against the terrorists, the paper added.

Jordan

King Husayn has accepted the resignation of Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar and approved the appointment of Ahmad 'Ubaydat to the post, according to Amman television. The king also approved the appointment of Maj Gen Tariq 'Ala' ad-Din as director of general intelligence, the television added.

Iran

Coup Plot -- Forty-five people have been arrested in connection with a coup plot hatched by former Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh, head of the Armed Forces Revolution Courts Mohammadi Reyshahri announced at a press conference reported by Tehran radio. Evidence and documents indicate that the coup attempt involved Qotbzadeh and a group called the "Liberation of the Iranian Revolution," Reyshahri stated. He added that Qotbzadeh was not the leader of the coup, but rather that he along with all of the others who were arrested, had formed this group with the cooperation of Israel, the CIA and the Pahlavi family.

According to an AFP report, Reyshahri said he did not believe Ayatollah Kazem Shari'atmadari had been informed about the plot. Reyshahri said he is convinced, however, that followers of Shari'atmadari were involved. Citing informed sources, SPA reported that revolution guards have taken Shari'atmadari to an unknown destination.

Qotbzadeh implicated Shari'atmadari in the plot in a statement he made on Iranian television, AFP reported. Qotbzadeh said he was informed by two intermediaries that Shari'atmadari had told them that while he could contribute nothing toward carrying out the plan, if it succeeded he would make statements supporting it. Qotbzadeh also confessed to having plotted to kill Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni and admitted that the group had planned to attack revolution guards centers as well as radio and television. Qotbzadeh added that he was seeking to overthrow the government, but not to change the Islamic Republic.

Security Situation -- More than 20 counterrevolutionaries were killed in operations around Mahabad, Tehran radio reported. Six villages were reclaimed in the Bukan area in operations conducted by the Guards Corps, the armed forces and local tribesmen, the radio said. In addition, a large number of counterrevolutionaries were killed or wounded in operations along the Baneh-Sar Dasht axis.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation -- The Iranian Air Force downed two Iraqi planes in the Abadan sector, according to a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio. An Iraqi military source denied Iranian claims that an Iraqi fighter plane was shot down near Abadan on 18 April, INA reported.

Mediation Efforts -- At a meeting with the subcommittee of the Islamic Conference Organization in Tehran, President 'Ali Khamene'i told the delegation not to tell Iran about Iraq's expectations and not to say that the committee will not make judgments because the objective of mediation is to learn the truth in order to judge, Tehran radio reported.

At a subsequent meeting in Baghdad, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn reiterated Iraq's readiness to settle the dispute in accordance with the principles defined by the Islamic summit conference at At-Ta'if, INA reported.

YAR

Syrian opposition forces in the Yemeni Arab Republic issued a statement calling for the overthrow of Hafiz al-Asad's "traitorous regime," according to Baghdad INA. Meanwhile, former Syrian Prime Minister Lt Gen Amin al-Hafiz concluded his 3-day visit to the country, San'a' radio reported.

Libya

The National Front for the Salvation of Libya, which aims to overthrow Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's regime, has recently been formed in Europe, according to the London daily ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT. Citing front member Ahmad Ibrahim Ahwas, former charge d'affaires at the Libyan Embassy in Guyana, the paper claimed that prominent Libyans, including officials close to Al-Qadhdhafi, belong to the organization.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT CHAIRS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

JN171606 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat yesterday evening headed a meeting of the PLO Executive Committee and the General Secretariat of the factions of the Palestinian revolution to followup efforts to put a stop to the clashes taking place in the Lebanese arena. They surveyed the results of the contacts made between various parties as well as the growing uprising inside the occupied territories and the criminal Israeli aggression against the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque.

The meeting further dealt with the current discussions taking place at the UN Security Council between the Islamic group, the nonaligned nations and other member states at the United Nations with the view to issuing a resolution condemning the criminal actions of the Israeli occupation authorities against the Palestinian people and their Islamic and Christian holy places.

The meeting finally adopted a number of resolutions and necessary measures to confront the critical situation in southern Lebanon, particularly in light of the recent Israeli military buildup.

MILITARY COUNCIL DISCUSSES S. LEBANON SITUATION

NC200632 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Apr 82

[Text] The Palestinian revolution's Higher Military Council last night held a meeting under the chairmanship of Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces. It discussed the military situation in southern Lebanon and in the Ad-Damur area in light of the Israeli military concentrations and movements. The council adopted a number of measures to deal with any eventualities, whether in the form of a limited or expanded operation.

The council also studied the position of the training missions which are scheduled to be sent [presumably abroad] this year.

QADDUMI SAYS PLO TO URGE UN SANCTIONS ON ISRAEL

NC200716 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 20 Apr 82

[Text] The UN General Assembly is preparing to discuss the Palestinian issue at an emergency session it will hold today. Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi, Fatah Central Committee member], head of the PLO Political Department, has stated that the PLO will call on the United Nations to impose deterrent sanctions against the Zionist entity and to reopen the dossier on occupied Jerusalem in light of recent developments.

Regarding the credibility of unbinding resolutions, Brother Abu al-Lutf said that whoever votes for a resolution must abide by it. He added that the imposition of sanctions against Israel by the General Assembly will increase Israel's isolation internationally. He said the United Nations has begun to feel that one of its members is treating it and its charter with contempt.

On the European stand regarding our people's uprising in the occupied territories, the brother head of the Political Department said: We hope the European stand on our people's uprising at home is clearer in its denunciation of the Zionist practices. However, it pleases us to refer in this respect to a unique case, namely, the statements made by French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson and his frank condemnation of the racist Zionist practices against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

'ARAFAT RECEIVES CABLE FROM IRANIAN PRESIDENT

JN191855 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] today received a cable of support from Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ali Khamene'i. The Iranian president asserted his country's support for the popular uprising and the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the leadership of the PLO. The Iranian president said the PLO's role in leading the Palestinians toward liberation is valuable, historic and sensitive. He said: We consider Palestinian causes closely linked to our own. Every victory achieved by the Palestinian revolution is our victory and every blow dealt to the Palestinian revolution is a blow to the Islamic revolution.

In his cable, the Iranian president called on all Islamic governments to devote all their energies and capabilities to backing the Palestinian revolution and helping it face the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism.

FATAH OFFICIAL: PALESTINIAN STATE A MUST

GF171317 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 16 Apr 82 p 2

[Text] Kuwait, April 15 -- The Palestinians will accept nothing short of a Palestine state, asserted Salim al-Zannun, member of the Fatah Central Committee, while speaking at a function organized here on the occasion of the solidarity day.

Al-Zannun, also known as Abu al-Adib, lauded the Kuwait National Assembly call for solidarity and support for the Palestinian cause. "It is an historical document," he said. He also called on President Husni Mubarak of Egypt to "return to the Arab fold," and revoke the Camp David agreements.

Commenting on the July 1981 Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, Al-Zannun said that "they (Israelis) called for a ceasefire because they had suffered heavy losses. We had forced them to ceasefire."

He also called on the Iranian and the Iraqi Governments to resolve the conflict and "direct their efforts toward the Arab occupied lands."

Hundreds of people turned out to attend the meeting called by the PLO office Kuwait.

Juma' Yasin, a member of the Kuwait Jornalists Association and the Kuwait Teachers Society, called for "liberation of the occupied territories. The holy Al-Aqsa Mosque and other religious shrines must be liberated."

"Arabs feel proud of the Palestinian resistance in occupied territories. We should support these people," he said and added that all persons should "donate a day's salary towards the Palestinian cause."

"Palestine is not only for Palestinians, but it is for all Arabs and Muslims," Juma' Yasin said. He condemned the policy of "supporting strong nations and ignoring the peoples." He said that the only way to "liberate" the occupied territories was through the means of an "armed struggle."

"While Israel rules Gaza Strip militarily, the PLO rules it politically," said Mrs. Hind al-Husayni, secretary of the Palestinian Teachers Union in Kuwait.

"The Palestinians rejected the administrative councils appointed by Begin. and the recent uprising in the region was indicative of PLO strength. And as the Israeli enemy was unable to take any effective measures, it indulged in arresting hundreds of people and committed sacrilege on the Al-Aqsa Mosque," she added.

"Arabs are still indifferent to the Palestinian situation," said Sa'id Ghayth, chairman of the Palestinian Students Union. He called on the Arab regimes to "put aside differences and unite."

BAHRAIN

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON GULF COOPERATION

GF181553 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 17 Apr 82 p 2

[Interview granted by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, minister of foreign affairs, to 'Abd al-Karim Abu Khadra, AL-WATAN correspondent in Manama -- date not given]

[Excerpts] Question: Bahrain will host the next Gulf summit. Have you started preparing for it? Have the dates for the preliminary conference and the summit conference been set? What are the most important issues that will be discussed during this summit?

Answer: Yes, it has been agreed that the Gulf summit will be held in Bahrain before mid-November. The GCC Ministerial Council is concerned with the issues that will be submitted to this summit. This council holds four sessions. The Ministerial Council will hold two meetings, the first in June and the second to be set later, because it will prepare for the summit and there are issues which have been discussed and issues that are being discussed. The issues under discussion will be handed over to the summit for ratification.

Question: It was reported in the last issue of ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Bahrain was the first country to call for an alliance with Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the UAE in 1979 to keep the region free from [outside] influence and that this call failed at that time because of incongruity in views of the countries of the region. How true is this?

Answer: We in Bahrain and in the region believe the security of the Gulf is the responsibility of its countries and is the burden of its sons. We believe we cannot keep out the superpowers' influence unless the region's countries shoulder their responsibility and understand that they have common interests with these superpowers and that if their sons are unable to defend these countries, the superpowers will come to protect these interests. In order to defend our region, we must unite; unity is the weapon we have to avoid the superpowers' influence and to deal with them because we have common interests with them. Naturally, cooperation of this kind is one thing and cooperation to exert influence is another. International struggle can lead to one thing only: We, the samll countries, will pay the price while they accept this price and benefit, as is the case in many regions.

Question: Your Excellency, we want a specific answer. Did Bahrain make the call or not?

Answer: This was our policy before 1979. We all advocated this policy. Many countries, including Kuwait, advocated it. We believe there is no vacuum in the region.

Question: There is no vacuum in the region?

Answer: Yes, there is no vacuum in the region because its sons are responsible -- not through words or statements or slogans. We in the GCC translate these slogans into facts.

Question: Do you believe the GCC countries can defend themselves?

Answer: We cannot charge the GCC with responsibilities it cannot shoulder. First, we have to find out the bases through which we can repel any aggressor in this region. The GCC defends itself with all its resources; however, these countries have not yet planned or prepared to talk about the real defense. We are still at the beginning of the road. Yet, we do not accept foreign interference. We believe there should be a real network that connects the region. Defense in the real sense means there should be radar systems and antiaircraft missiles. We want to coexist with all countries of the world and we do not want to give anyone a chance to interfere in our affairs.

Question: You know there is a clash in the views of some GCC countries on border issues. Do you believe the GCC is able to resolve this?

Answer: Issues on which there is a clash of opinion will remain and there is no need for us to worry about them, particularly since such issues exist among the European countries and in many regions of the world. As for issues pertaining to the region's security and stability or which affect unity, they are more important and more serious.

We in the GCC have passed this stage and have started to view things from broader angles and not from narrow ones. In our view, problems on such issues become secondary and not primary at a time of confusion and in a region which is surrounded by threats and is a vital spot in the world. All our thoughts are devoted to the real enemies of the Arab nation who are trying hard to undermine its interests. Border issues remain minor and secondary and will be resolved by time through a spirit of amity, fraternity and national causes which rises above all issues of this kind.

This is our view: All issues will be resolved through a spirit of amity and fraternity. The GCC has become a haven for these issues. It was established for the sake of development, and to enhance confidence; it is able to fulfill these goals, to remove this incongruity on these issues and put an end to old negative factors.

Question: Bahrain signed an agreement with the French Government in 1980 during the visit of former President Giscard d'Estaing to the region to supply you with rocket launching and antisubmarine ships. In view of the changes in French Middle East policy made by the government of Francois Mitterrand, are there any changes in this agreement?

Answer: We did not sign such an agreement with France. We signed an agreement with the FRG to supply us with weapons. The visit to the region by former President Giscard was a visit of friendship intended to bolster relations. The visit was crowned with an economic agreement, not a military one. Through this agreement, Bahrain's trade with France increased. There was no agreement between us in the military field.

As for French policy under the new president, Francois Mitterrand, I believe the Arabs are patiently following this policy. We wish France would establish a friendship with us based on an understanding of our central issues and other Arab issues. We believe President Mitterrand's visit to Jerusalem was painful and that France has to face Israel wanted to use this visit as an excuse to be more intransigent and dominant, that this visit would not be fruitful and that Israel would become more stubborn.

In truth, Israel has not made any concessions; nor has it done anything to show that it is seeking peace. We hope France -- the country of liberty and justice -- will be able, under President Mitterrand, to understand the truth and Arab causes and will help to resolve them. We in Bahrain hope commerical cooperation with France will expand.

HEIR APPARENT RETURNS FROM TALKS IN JORDAN

GF191500 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1425 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Manama, 19 Apr (WAKH) -- Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahrain Defense Force, returned home from Amman this afternoon following a 2-day visit to Jordan. Shaykh Hamad stated upon arrival that during his visit to Jordan he held talks with King Husayn ibn Talal and Prince Hasan, the heir apparent, on cooperation between the two countries in all fields and means to bolster it in addition to the tense and serious situation in the Middle East.

KUWAIT

GOVERNMENT WANTS DONATIONS TO PALESTINIAN CAUSE

LD182052 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Council of Ministers statement -- date not given]

[Text] The Council of Ministers praises the great response to the government's call for halting business activity last Wednesday to mark the Jerusalem events and the struggle of Palestinian Arab people in the occupied land. It praises the popular consensus and the comprehensive awareness of all the citizens and their (?support) for their fateful causes. The council, while praising this spirit, hopes this attitude will be reflected in material donations from all state and private sector employees to the Palestinian martyrs fund and to national and Islamic causes. These should be made through the popular committee for donations which will announce the centers for the receipt of donations. It will also contact ministries, administrations and various establishments to organize donations from the employees of the public and private sectors in the form of 1-day's salary for this noble objective. The council hopes the response will be at the same level as that of last Wednesday.

OIL, GAS PRICES RAISED FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMERS

LD171954 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] The Kuwaiti National Petroleum Company would like to inform the public of the change in the price of oil products (per liter] at all filling stations and company storage facilities.

Gasoline with special 98 octane rating	-- from 25 fils to 50 fils
Gasoline with super 90 octane rating	-- from 15 fils to 40 fils
Diesel oil	-- from 5 fils to 40 fils
Kerosene for domestic use and ovena	-- from 6 fils to 20 fils

The new prices are to come into affect beginning 0530 Sunday 18 April 1982.

The Kuwaiti Oil Tankers Company would like to inform the public of the change in the price of filling gas cylinders which are sold at cooperatives or through distributors or at the company's gas plant.

25 kg industrial gas cylinder	-- from 1.15 dinars to 1.45 dinars
25 kg ordinary gas cylinders	-- from 850 fils to 1.050 dinars
24 kg industrial gas cylinder	-- from 1.1 dinar to 1.4 dinars
24 kg ordinary gas cylinder	-- from 800 fils to 1 dinar
12 kg ordinary gas cylinder	-- from 400 fils to 500 fils
5 kg gas cylinder	-- from 250 fils to 350 fils
3 kg gas cylinder	-- from 220 fils to 300 fils
1 kg gas cylinder	-- from 100 fils to 150 fils

The new prices will come into effect beginning 0600 Sunday 18 April 1982.

OMAN

FOREIGN MINISTER INTERVIEWED ON VARIOUS ISSUES

PM191403 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 17-23 Apr 82 pp 27, 28

[Hammud as-Siabi interview with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi in Muscat -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Sultan Qabus recently paid his first official visit to Britain. What were the most important points discussed with the British officials and what was the outcome of the visit?

[Answer] There is no doubt the aim of Sultan Qabus' visit was to strengthen the close relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the UK Government. The warm welcome he was accorded by the queen and the British royal family is evidence of the strong relations and of Britain's desire to maintain and strengthen these relations.

[Question] What about the military aspect of the talks, particularly in view of the sultanate's announcement last August that it intends to buy British tanks and transporters?

[Answer] With regard to the British tanks about which an announcement was made in August and which are of the Chieftain MK. 2/7 type, the shipments on which agreement was reached, have already arrived. With regard to other military aspects, the two sides did not deal with them in detail since this is not a political matter but is dealt with between Defense Ministry officials in both countries, and there are no political obstacles in this regard.

[Question] There has been talk about facilities granted to the United States by the sultanate, particularly since the United States announced the allocation of $8 million for the establishment of military installations in the sultanate's territory. Many people link the installations the United States intends to build with the military bases. Could you explain this point?

[Answer] There is nothing in our relations with the United States that needs explaining. The agreement on facilities was officially made public, and there are no bases whatever; and the Sultanate of Oman Government will not give bases to any state, large or small. Rather the principle of cooperation between us and the United States is established on the grounds that the United States is a friendly state which has expressed its readiness and desire to help the sultanate in various fields and types of military facilities. Such a thing exists in international relations and the sultanate is not the only country in the world that provides facilities.

There are many countries that have given similar facilities and this is customary. What military facilities we in Oman offer to the United States is something that concerns bilateral relations between the two countries and has nothing to do with any other party.

[Question] By virtue of its strategic position and because of its feeling that it is exposed to danger, the sultanate hastened to propose a plan for the protection of the area and followed this proposal with a working paper containing its views on ways to protect the area from any foreign threat. What was the response of the countries of the area to this?

[Answer] Within the GCC there is no longer presentation of papers by different countries. The council now receives studies from specialized bodies in the GCC states. For example, there are periodic meetings of the chiefs of staff of the GCC Council, of the defense ministers and of the committees operating within the council. It is all these bodies that will determine the Gulf countries' future ability to confront all these external dangers.

[Question] Has Iranian intransigence and Iran's attempts to export its revolution involved the countries of the area as a third party in the Iraq-Iran war?

[Answer] We do not accept the principle of exporting troubles of what they call revolution.

[Question] So what are the precautionary measures needed in order to stand against the troubles which Iran is trying to export?

[Answer] Several steps have and will be taken to try to prevent this policy from achieving its objectives. I do not think the Gulf countries will stand idly by but will take such steps.

[Question] You say the reason for the failure to end the political dispute between Muscat and Aden is the Aden regime's inability to make political decisions without receiving instructions from Moscow. As long as this is the case, why are no direct or indirect negotiations taking place with Moscow in this regard?

[Answer] I do not believe the Soviet Union wishes to end the dispute. Rather, the opposite is the truth. If the Soviet Union can widen the dispute then it will do so. It is not a question of ending the dispute but of preserving interests. The Soviet Union is expanding its presence in South Yemen and is trying to prevent it from pursuing a policy of moderation, reason and preservation of Arab interests. The Soviet Union has interests and wants to use South Yemen as a bridge to achieve those interests.

SAUDI ARABIA

ISLAMIC CONFERENCE DELEGATION RETURNS FROM IRAQ

LD192226 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1846 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Jidda, 19 Apr (SPA) -- The Islamic good offices delegation led by Guinean President Sekou Toure and Islamic Conference Organization Secretary General Habib Chatti arrived in Jidda this evening from Baghdad. The delegation visited both Tehran and Baghdad with the aim of (?reconciling) the two countries.

INDIA'S PRIME MINISTER INDIRA GANDHI ENDS VISIT

Talks With Crown Prince

LD191338 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Riyadh, 19 Apr (SPA) -- SPA has learned that talks between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'abd al-'Aziz, deputy premier, and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, dealt with a number of international issues, particularly the situation in the Middle East and South Asia. The talks were conducted in a friendly atmosphere and both sides noted the similarity of their views. The two sides also discussed bilateral relations and their desire to bolster these relations for the good of both countries and peoples.

Interviewed by AR-RIYAD

GF191708 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 17 Apr 82 p 3

[Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's interview with AR-RIYAD Chief Editor Turki 'Abdallah as-Sudayri -- date, place not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] India has declared its support for Babrak Karmal's government in Afghanistan although that government is illegal. How do you explain such a stand in light of the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan?

[Answer] We have already declared and we declare once again that we do not agree to the presence of foreign forces or to any other form of interference in Afghanistan or any other country. As for the question of the legality of the present Afghan Government, this is not a matter for discussion because we always deal with the government that is in power, whether in Afghanistan or elsewhere. India has good and friendly relations with the Afghan people, and these relations continue.

[Question] Pakistani Foreign Minister Agha Shahi visited India before he was relieved of his post. During the visit he announced a proposal for a reconciliation and for efforts to end all existing differences between India and Pakistan. How far has that proposal gone?

[Answer] My country (and I personally) will be very glad when we see signs of success in bringing about a reconciliation between India and Pakistan and a return to normal relations. I have made several proposals in this regard. In a 1972 agreement the two countries agreed on the need to reach peaceful solutions through bilateral relations and an understanding of the problems between them. In 1974 an agreement on the reciprocal granting of visas was signed. A trade agreement was signed in 1975 and diplomatic relations were resumed in 1976. When I returned to my post as prime minister, I sent our foreign minister on a special mission to Pakistan to improve our relations with our neighbors. We also invited Pakistan Foreign Minister Agha Shahi to visit India and hold talks on the proposal to conclude a no-war pact between the two countries. During my meeting with him I proposed the formation of a joint committee to bring about a rapprochement between our two countries in various spheres. We also offered on various occasions to sign a peace and friendship treaty with Pakistan. A proposal in this regard has been pending to the Pakistani Government since 1969. Immediately after Agha Shahi's visit an official Pakistani spokesman made a statement in which he raised the Kashmir question. This did not serve the progress of talks between the two countries. In any case, we hope this stage will be temporary and we shall continue our dialogue.

[Question] Does India still prefer closer relations with the Soviet Union than the United States?

[Answer] I have repeatedly said we are not on the side of the Soviet Union or against the United States; we do only what we believe suits our country. Perhaps the essence of nonalignment requires the establishment of good relations with the superpowers as well as with other states without belonging to a particular camp (Eastern or Western). We are constantly endeavoring to establish friendships with all countries. Our relations with the Soviet Union are firm and fraternal. The Soviet Union assisted us at a time we were in great need of assistance. In any case, differences in views between us and the Soviet Union do exist. As for the United States, although there are fundamental differences between us, our policy is to improve our relations with the United States. We have always sought to diversify our economic relations. The same thing applies to our arms purchases -- no one can accuse us of leaning toward one camp or of relying on a particular country. All our development plans aim at maximum self-sufficiency.

[Question] India is a founding member of the Nonaligned Movement. However, it has not made any effort to stop the Iraqi-Iranian war, although the two countries are members of this movement. Can you comment on this?

[Answer] It is well known that India greatly regrets the outbreak of war between two countries of the Nonaligned Movement. We are a member of the group of four countries that was formed by the Nonaligned Movement to bring the views of Iraq and Iran closer together.

[Question] It has been reported that the Indian Government exerts pressure on Muslim groups in India although there are more than 100 million Muslims in India. Don't you believe this contradicts the well-known aims of your policy?

[Answer] There are many different religions and cultures in India. The number of Muslims is large, about one-ninth of the total population of 683 million. The Muslims are free like the adherents of other religions in the country. They enjoy the same privileges and rights as others in accordance with the Constitution. They participate in the country's economic activity. The fact is that there is no Indian group or individual that is subjected to any form of pressure. Our policy is to encourage all religious and cultural groups within a framework founded on mutual respect.

[Question] How do you explain the coolness that has been observed in Indian-Arab relations?

[Answer] This question is somewhat surprising. Our relations with the Arab countries are far from cool. They are friendly and close and are characterized by mutual interest. As you know we always support the Arab cause in international forums. In the Nonaligned Movement and in the Group of 77, India and the Arab countries have common aims. In recent years economic cooperation between India and the Arab world grew and diversified. Indian technology has contributed to the agricultural and industrial development of a number of Arab countries. There is no doubt that common and compatible interests will lead to further close cooperation between India and the Arab world.

Holds Press Conference

BK200935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 20 Apr 82

[Text] The prime minister has said that she has had very useful talks with the Saudi Arabian leaders and both sides feel these will be an opening of a new chapter in their relationship. Mrs Gandhi was addressing a news conference in Riyadh this morning on the last day of her 4-day visit to Saudi Arabia. She said:

[Begin recording] The first meeting of the India-Saudi joint commission will be held in Delhi this October. A group of Saudi businessmen and industrialists will visit India this year. There are vast possibilities of economic exchanges. Some, as you know, are already taking place and some are now to be vigorously pursued; the question of joint ventures, such as fertilizers, that will be in production in Saudi Arabia and marketing in India; cooperation in agriculture, in industries in India with market for products in India as well as in the Gulf. We also discussed participation in development programs in Saudi Arabia. By the way, I will like to pay a tribute and to say how impressed all of us were by the demonstration regarding the planning commission yesterday of what has been achieved by you in a very short time. [end recording]

Mrs Gandhi said that during her talks it was recognized that the security and stability in the Gulf region and the Indian subcontinent are closely interlinked. Both sides recognized the importance of maintaining an atmosphere conducive to further negotiations between India and Pakistan. She pointed out that India values peace, not merely as an ideal, but because of practical necessity. We seek to live in peace with our immediate neighbors and with all other countries.

She described as absolutely untrue the allegation by some people that India has not accepted the fact of Pakistan's existence. She said if India had not done so, there would have been no partition at all. India wishes Pakistan well. Mrs Gandhi said that even from the practical point of view it is not good to have weak or unstable neighbors. We want all our neighbors -- including Bangaldesh or Sri Lanka -- to be strong and stable. She declared that it is the business of these countries to decide what system they should have and who their leaders should be. India does not want to interfere in these matters.

About the India-Arab relationship, the prime minister said the support for the Arab cause has been a plank for our foreign policy. We stand side by side with the Arabs on the Palestinian issue. The leader of the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat, will be visiting India very soon. Mrs Gandhi disclosed that King Khalid of Saudi Arabia, Prince Fahd and Prince Abdullah have accepted invitations to visit India.

Departs Riyadh

LD201044 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1025 GMT 20 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 20 Apr (SPA) -- Indira Gandhi, prime minister of India, left Riyadh for Dhahran at noon today at the end of her visit to the kingdom. Mrs Gandhi was seen off at the airport by His Royal Highness Amir Fahd and a number of senior civilian and military officials.

AL-BILAD HAILS SOLIDARITY WITH PALESTINIANS

GF171502 Jidda AL-BILAD in Arabic 15 Apr 82 p 1

[Editorial: "World Responds to Saudi Stand"]

[Text] The response of the Arab and Muslim people to the call of the servant of the two holy places to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people in challenging and resisting the Zionist invasion and aggression in the occupied Arab territories, has given to the world a comprehensive political and strategic dimension with regard to the meaning of the Arab and Islamic move to confront the aggression and the Zionist plans to impose an illegal reality in occupied Palestine.

The response has come as an expression of the ambitions of the Arab and Muslim citizens in all parts of the world, East and West. These ambitions have always been threatened by the fierce Zionist plans to build the so-called entity at the expense of the Arab and Muslim citizens. The response is a natural reaction crystallizing the hopes and ambitions and revealing more plans to undermine the Arab and Islamic path. Therefore, while following this strong and important event, the countries of the world have supported with every force the move of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied territories and their reaction to the continuous sinful aggression against shrines in occupied Jerusalem.

Saudi Arabia, which is leading this move today, has revealed to the world the dimensions of what international Zionism is looking to achieve. By doing so, Saudi Arabia has achieved a great Arab and Islamic victory because the Arab and Muslim peoples in their constructive path to confront all hostile plans are sometimes subject to sudden failure. Revealing the way for the Arab and Muslim force would eliminate any failures or obstacles that may hinder this path.

Guided by its historical responsibility, the Saudi leadership has pledged that Palestine will be the first issue and Jerusalem will be the basic step in the move to bring about a constructive Arab and Islamic stand which is capable of confronting international Zionism.

The world, which is now living these historical moments, expressing support and solidarity with the Palestinian people and responding to the call of the servant of the two holy places, realizes more than ever before the objectives that international Zionism, through its bloody acts, is looking forward to achieving so as to destroy not only the Palestinian people and shrines, but also humanity.

MINISTER TALKS OF SECURITY WITH FRG OFFICIAL

LD191856 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] His Royal Highness Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has expressed the kingdom's satisfaction with the development of Saudi-German cooperation. In a statement he made to SPA after meeting with the FRG interior minister he stressed the readiness of the German guest to cooperate in technical equipment and using German experience in the security field.

Regarding equipment and training, he hoped the development of the security machinery in the kingdom would take place through this cooperation to make it reach the standard desired by all. Prince Nayif also stressed the benefit the Saudi security machinery gets from the German experience in the field of administrative organization. He said an understanding was reached at today's meeting about the broad lines of this cooperation; the details are to be left to the security experts in both countries to follow up the issues in the near future.

Regarding the Interior Ministry computer, he said its installation has been completed and the company concerned is continuing the project. The German experience will improve its performance by using up-to-date German knowhow.

The German interior minister made a similar statement in which he said his country attached great importance to the promotion of cordial relations with the kingdom. He described cooperation between the German and Saudi Interior Ministries as excellent. Today's talks, he said, dealt with promoting this cooperation in the future. The security experts in both countries are to make detailed plans of bilateral cooperation in security fields and the means to consolidate them.

PETROMIN OFFICIAL ON OIL POLICY, NEW PIPELINES

LD182020 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1855 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Al-Khubar, 18 Apr (SPA) -- The governor of Petromin, the general petroleum and minerals organizations, Dr 'Abd al-Hadi Tahir, affirmed the commitment of the Arabian Gulf states to the decisions of the OPEC concerning output and prices.

Dr 'Abd al-Hadi Tahir also affirmed in a statement he made after opening the Saudi petroleum and energy exhibition, that the kingdom's oil policy is built on logical, moderate and balanced foundations which are linked, to a large extent, to both local and international interests. He described this policy as basically dependent on taking into consideration the interests of Saudi society, its development and the welfare of its citizens.

He declared that in 3 months a new gas pipeline will be opened, running parallel to the Abqid-Nabu' oil pipeline. Experimental oil pumping has already begun. He explained that the GCC oil ministers' technical committee which is currently meeting in Riyadh, continues its work concerning implementation of the coordination measures [words indistinct] and the oil ministers of these states. He pointed out the need for improved coordination among the oil industries of the Cooperation Council countries in view of their being interlinked and diversified.

Concerning the question of Saudiazation of the technical and command posts in the oil industries, Dr 'Abd al-Hadi Tahir said that Petromin has 76 percent of [words indistinct].

He lauded the role played by oil in the international arena and in the life of the kingdom. He also praised the persistent Saudi endeavor to benefit from this great gift which God had given to the Muslim people of the kingdom. [passage indistinct]

UAE

RULER OF ASH-SHARIQAH MEETS ELF CHAIRMAN

GF181245 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Ash-Shariqah, 18 Apr (WAKH) -- Shaykh Sultan ibn Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Ash-Shariqah, met here today with Osman Saleh Sabbe, chairman of the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), who is currently visiting the UAE, and the delegation accompanying him.

COMMERCIAL OFFICIAL MEETS IRANIAN COUNTERPART

GF180457 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1850 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 Apr (WAKH) -- Samir ad-Durubi, director general of the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce and Industry, met here today with 'Ali Khanoshi, head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. During the meeting, the two sides discussed ways to expand commercial cooperation and to increase trade volume between the two countries. Mr Khanoshi arrived in the UAE this morning on a 2-day visit to the country.

NEWSPAPERS CONDEMN U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY

GF180945 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0640 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 18 Apr (WAM) -- Two UAE newspapers today vehemently attacked the U.S. Middle East policy which is colluding and totally allied with Israel. The papers assert the Arabs cannot regain their usurped rights in Palestine and Jerusalem unless they view the United States in the same light they view Israel, and unless the United States is punished just as Israel should be punished.

Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ says the U.S. Congress has urged President Reagan's administration to set up the naval command headquarters of the Rapid Deployment Force in the Red Sea and the Arab Gulf region at a time when Israeli bullying and Zionist terrorism in the Arab territories and on the Lebanese border are increasing. AL-KHALIJ says: This U.S. stand confirms that the U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance exists despite the fact that it was suspended by Israel. It also points to U.S. military plans to develop a naval force for the Gulf on the pretext of ensuring the continued flow of oil to the free world, including Israel.

In its editorial, AL-KHALIJ reviews the U.S. stand, which it describes as a strategic and consistent stand that does not change with administrations, and says: "This strategic link between the United States and Israel confirms the soundness of the national view that the Arabs cannot regain their usurped rights in Palestine and Jerusalem unless the United States is viewed in the same light as Israel and unless the United States is punished just as Israel should be punished."

The newspaper AL-WAHDAH asserts that the United States is constantly demonstrating that it holds on to the policy of hegemony and imposing U.S. tutelage on the area to serve its monopolies and economic interests.

In its editorial today, AL-WAHDAH says although the majority of the Gulf countries have rejected U.S. intimidation and any U.S. interference or maneuvers in the region, the United States insists on ignoring the facts and on dealing with the region by imposing its tutelage and waving the alleged Soviet threat, or at times the threat of externally-motivated changes in some area countries.

AL-WAHDAH continues: "While the U.S. Government refuses to condemn the massacres that Israel is daily perpetrating among our people in the occupied territories and Israel's violation of the sanctity of our holy places, reports from Washington reveal new U.S. military plans to maintain U.S. military domination in one form or another over the Gulf. The United States asks the Gulf countries to relinquish our Arabism in the occupied territories and our holy places in Jerusalem, Gaza and Khan Yunis and to accept employment in the service of the Rapid Deployment Force."

FINANCE MINISTER ANNOUNCES FOREIGN AID REDUCTION

GF171203 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 17 Apr 82 p 1

[Text] Dubayy -- Shaykh Hamdan ibn Rashid, minister of finance and industry, told AL-KHALIJ yesterday that the UAE has decided to reduce its foreign aid from 3.8 billion to 1.6 billion dirhams as a result of the fall in the UAE's oil revenues. He asserted that the Arab countries will not be affected by the reduction in aid. He noted that the UAE has decided to restrict its aid to the pledges it made during past summit conferences and to bilateral agreements that have already been concluded. Shaykh Hamdan said the UAE's contribution to the Arab develo-ment decade, which is aimed at assisting poor Arab countries, totals about $1 million paid over a period of 10 years.

IMPROVEMENTS IN ARMED FORCES TO CONTINUE

GF191015 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Excerpt] His Highness Lt Gen Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent and deputy supreme commander of the armed forces, has said the plan to improve the UAE Armed Forces will not be affected by the reduction of oil revenues from the current developments in the international oil market.

In his speech to a new group of graduates of Zayid Military Academy today, his highness said: The instructions of father Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the supreme commander of the armed forces, call for continued preparations and improvements in our armed forces because they are the fence protecting the country. There are many reasons for this, foremost of which is the Zionist threat, which is our main challenge, since we are part of the Arab nation.

PDRY

ETHIOPIA'S MENGISTU ARRIVES FOR TALKS 19 APRIL

EA191418 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and Commission for Organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia, arrived in Aden today at the head of high-level delegation for an official working visit to Democratic Yemen which is to last several days.

On arrival at the airport he was given a big welcome, led by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium and chairman of the Council of Ministers. Also present to welcome him on arrival were members of the Political Bureau and Central Committee and ministers.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam made a statement on arrival in which he expressed his and his delegation's pleasure at visiting Democratic Yemen. He also expressed his regret about the natural disasters which have happened in Democratic Yemen and reiterated Socialist Ethiopia's support for Democratic Yemen in dealing with natural disasters.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam is accompanied by a delegation which includes Foreign Minister Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, Construction Minister Kassa Gebre, External Trade Minister Wollie Chekol, and the heads of trade unions and the peasants, youth and womens unions.

Later this afternoon official talks will begin between the Democratic Yemen and Ethiopian delegations.

Official Talks Begin

LD192030 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Official talks between Democratic Yemen and Socialist Ethopia were held at 1700 at the Presidium headquarters. The Yemeni side was led by Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Peoples Supreme Assembly Presidum and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The Ethiopian side was led by Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council and of the Organizing Committee of Commission for organizing the Party of the Workers of Ethiopia [COPWE].

Yemen was represented at the talks by Brothers Brig 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar, member of the Political Bureau, first deputy prime minister [title as heard] and minister of local government; Salim Salih Muhammad, member of the Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs; Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Central Committee and minister of installations; Muhammad Sulayman Nasir, candidate member of the Central Committee and minister of agriculture and agrarian reform; Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, member of the Central Committee and Democratic Yemen's ambassador to Ethiopia; and Ahmad Rajih, director of the African Department of the Foreign Ministry.

Felleke Gedle-Giorgis, member of the COPWE Central Committee and minister of foreign affairs; Kassa Gebre, member of the Central Committee and minister of contruction; Wollie Chekol, member of the Central Committee and minister of external trade; and Husayn Ismail, Ethiopian ambassador in Aden, represented Ethiopia at the talks.

Bilateral relations between Democratic Yemen and Socialist Ethiopia were reviewed during the talks. Brother Ali Nasir Muhammad briefed the Ethiopian side on the damage caused by the torrential floods and rain which recently swept the country and extensively destroyed citizens' homes and possessions as well as public installations and arable lands.

Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam extended his sympathy and the sympathy of the Ethiopian people to the Yemeni people because of the damage that had been caused. He stressed that the Ethiopian people stand by the side of the Yemeni people in their efforts to overcome the results of the natural disaster.

The two sides reviewed the situation in the African Continent and Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad reiterated Democratic Yemen's support for the Ethiopian people's struggle to maintain national independence and achieve social progress. The two sides also dealt with the current international situation, particularly the Middle East and the Arab area in general. They stressed the importance of strengthening the struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction and the importance of strengthening friendly relations with the socialist community countries headed by the USSR.

ARAB LEAGUE'S CHEDLI KLIBI SEES 'ALI NASIR

EA182332 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Summary] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi left Aden today after a brief visit to Democratic Yemen during which he met Chairman 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and discussed the latest developments in the Arab region, especially in the Middle East.

YAR

FORMER SYRIAN PRESIDENT AL-HAFIZ PAYS VISIT

JN171335 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] Brother Lt Gen Amin al-Hafiz, former Syrian president, arrived in San'a' today on a several-days visit to the YAR during which he will be familiarized with the achievements of the victorious September revolution and with the progress attained by the Yemeni people. Lt Gen Amin al-Hafiz was received at the airport by the YAR former president, brother 'Abdallah as-Sallal, Consultative Council member Muhammad Bidari and a number of ranking officials.

In a statement to SABA' News Agency, Lt Gen Amin al-Hafiz lauded Brother Commander President Col 'Ali abdallah Salih, the Yemeni people and the Yemeni revolution, wishing our country progress and prosperity. He expressed hope that the YAR would forge ahead in building a new, strong, developed Yemen. He also expressed hope that the international Yemeni development conference will successfully attain its objectives and wished the Yemeni development march further success and progress.

Departs Country

JN192030 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Former Syrian President Lt Gen Amin al-Hafiz, left San'a' this evening following a 3-day visit to our country. In a statement to SABA' News Agency, Al-Hafiz expressed his thanks to the Yemeni political leadership and people for the hospitality accorded him. He described the Yemeni people as a noble, cultured, good-natured and hospitable people.

Al-Hafiz was seen off at the airport by former YAR President 'Abdallah as-Sallal and Consultative Council member Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab Jabari.

SYRIAN OPPOSITION FORCES DENOUNCE AL-ASAD REGIME

JN191336 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] San'a', 19 Apr (INA) -- The Syrian opposition forces in the YAR issued a statement today stressing that they will continue the struggle to topple Hafiz al-Asad's regime and rescue the Syrian masses from terrorism and bloody tyranny.

The statement denounced the practice of the ruling regime in Syria and its crimes against innocent citizens, pointing to the Hamah massacre, which it described as a crime unprecedented in history.

The statement called on all the Syrian national forces to work seriously to topple this traitorous regime, bringing to trial all its ranking officials, forming a provisional government, safeguarding liberties, reorganizing the army and dealing with the deteriorating economic situation.

AS-SAFIR INTERVIEWS YEMEN NATIONAL FRONT LEADER

PM190923 Beirut AS-SAFIR in Arabic 28 Mar 82 p 12

[Report on Hassan Haydar interview with Sultan 'Umar, secretary general of the National Democratic Front in the YAR: "Sultan 'Umar Tells AS-SAFIR: We Had Accepted Mediation by PLO and Aden But San'a' Authorities Broke Agreement" -- date and place of interview not specified]

[Text] Sultan 'Umar, secretary general of the National Democratic Front in North Yemen, has stated that the front "had responded to the efforts made by the PLO and the PDRY to end the fighting between the front and the San'a' authorities, but the latter undermined everything that had been achieved."

In an interview with AS-SAFIR, Sultan 'Umar said these efforts resulted in an agreement reached 14 February providing for a cease-fire in all areas of tension and for an end to [troop] concentrations and reinforcements. The front, he added, was later surprised to discover that President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih was using the agreement only as a maneuver to gain time and then launch military campaigns. He added the front "has managed to repulse all the military campaigns, but the confrontation is continuing."

He noted that the "front adheres to the previous agreements and advocates peace and guaranteed security and stability in the country. It is also still interested in a dialogue with the authorities, although it has been compelled to adopt a decision to confront these military offensives in order to prevent a military blow being dealt to it." Sultan 'Umar added: "During our dialogue with the San'a' regime we noticed that it was determined to continue the fighting so as to try to break the front militarily. As a result battles broke out on a larger scale, especially last week."

He pointed out that President Salih has "for the first time made conscription compulsory and has used foreign and local mercenaries provided by tribal leaders, the Muslim Brotherhood, Iraq and shaykhs linked to Saudi Arabia."

He said the aim of President Salih's recent tour of a number of Gulf states was "to obtain more support for his military campaigns against us, and it has in fact resulted in the dispatch of more Jordanian and British experts to fight us." He added: "There is a Jordanian undertaking to direct the fighting against us. British mercenary Robert Reed, a well-known expert on the fight against the popular movement in Oman, has arrived secretly in San'a'." Sultan 'Umar said that despite all this he still hopes the San'a' authorities will respond and honor the agreements concluded and thus foil the attempts of the reactionary circles.

He maintained that the "Saudi role in aborting any agreement is quite clear. Saudi Arabia is hostile to the Yemeni people and supports the executioners and the ultra-reactionary elements in the present government. Its aim is to prevent stability, foment local sedition and obstruct the development and unity of the Yemeni people."

He added: "Saudi Arabia has recently paid $400 million to finance the war against us. It has also initiated an airlift, in addition to the land route, and has also opened its hospitals to the army wounded and put pressure on the Gulf states to help San'a' in the fight against us."

Referring to the question of unity between the two Yemens, he said: "To the front, unity is a major strategic objective, and to the ordinary Yemeni people it is one of the main objectives which must be fulfilled in view of its importance for the economic and social development of the people. Such unity would be a first step toward a real progressive Arab unity and would mean a united independent Yemeni state. This would in turn enable Yemen to contribute more to the Arab nation's sturggle, especially the struggle of the Palestinian people. This is why we raise this unity slogan and say it should be national and democratic and should be achieved by peaceful means."

He noted that "The front is doing its best to convince the authorities that it is impossible to liquidate us militarily because we are a combination of the various national and progressive forces in the country and our roots go back 25 years. We are trying to convince certain circles in San'a' that the crisis can be settled through the promotion of a peaceful political solution providing for democratic freedom, parliamentary life and a democratic constitution guaranteeing freedom of the masses and providing for a people's assembly to be democratically elected by secret ballot and leading to the formation of a democratic government." He added: "There is no doubt that some elements in the regime are opposed to the continuation of the military campaigns against us, and they realize it is impossible to defeat the front militarily."

He noted that the front "is doing its best to enlarge the national alliance and persuade more social figures to join it. Efforts are also being made to persuade the '13 June Popular Forces Front' to return to the National Front Alliance. An agreement providing for coordination with this organization was reached in July 1981 and is in the process of implementation."

PRESIDENT RECEIVES PDRY PLANNING MINISTER

JN192031 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Brother Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces, this evening received Dr Faraj ibn Ghanim, minister of planning in the southern part of the homeland, who is participating in the second international conference for Yemeni development.

SAUDI PLANNING MINISTER ARRIVES 17 APRIL

GF171446 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1250 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] San'a', 17 Apr (WAKH) -- Shaykh Hisham Nazir, Saudi minister of planning, arrived in San'a' today leading a large Saudi delegation to the meetings of the second international development conference being held in San'a'.

Shaykh Nazir affirmed that Saudi Arabia cares a great deal for the YAR development process due to the strong relations between the YAR and Saudi Arabia. In an arrival statement, he expressed hope that the conference, which will discuss the 5-year YAR development plan, will reach positive results reflecting the right course for the development process in that part of the Arab homeland.

CONTINUING REPORTAGE ON WITHDRAWAL NEGOTIATIONS

'Ali, Begin Meeting

NC191723 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] In Israel, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali held a second meeting this afternoon with Prime Minister Menahem Begin. 'Ali stated before the meeting that existing differences between Egypt and Israel have almost been settled.

'Ali met with the Israeli prime minister immediately after arriving in Israel before noon today to discuss the outstanding differences between the two sides prior to the completion of the final Israeli withdrawl from the Sinai on 25 April.

'Ali is accompanied by an Egyptian delegation that includes Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and, the head of the Egyptian delegation in the Joint Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee, Maj Gen Muhsin Hamdi.

'Ali on Peace Treaty

NC192027 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] The Egyptian delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali returned to Cairo this evening at the conclusion of its talks in Israel.

His excellency made a statement in which he said he received a message from Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin to President Husni Mubarak in reply to his excellency's message to Begin on 16 April. He added that the talks held today with the Israeli prime minister took place in a atmosphere of friendship and were extremely constructive. The talks dealt with all subjects pertaining to the peace process and bilateral relations. As a result, some ideas have emerged that can bridge the gap between the two countries on some pending issues. He added that the next few days will witness the conclusion of all pending issues.

He said: We in Egypt are confident that 25 April will give relations between Egypt and Israel a new impetus in the right direction, which represents the way to full Palestinian autonomy and which is considered a positive step toward right, justice and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. The Camp David accords and the peace treaty have established the basis for comprehensive peace in the Middle East. Egypt is committed to implementing the peace treaty in letter and spirit.

'Ali, Ghali Brief Mubarak

NC201018 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 Apr 82

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak met this morning with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali and Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz. The discussion dealt with the results of talks 'Ali and Ghali had yesterday in Israel with Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Israeli officials.

Rafah Residents To Be Moved

NC192209 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 19 Apr (MENA) -- It has been decided to move Palestinian refugee camps in Rafah to the Gaza Strip within 6 months in fulfillment of the desire of the Palestinian families to return to their land.

Yusuf Sabri Abu Talib, governor of northern Sinai, said in a statement to the newspaper AL-AHRAM, published on Tuesday, that during the occupation of the Sinai, Israeli authorities moved well over 10,000 Palestinians to the two previous UN emergency force camps, called Canada and Brazil, in which the Canadian and Brazilian contingents, in the UN emergency force were staying.

Maj Gen Faruq Hanafi, assistant interior minister and security director in northern Sinai, said Egyptian citizenship will be given to any Palestinian whose father is Egyptian. Temporary permits will be given to Palestinians or Egyptians to move between the Egyptian city of Rafah and the Palestinian city of Rafah, which are divided by Egypt's international border, until the process of the sale or exchange of land, property and buildings on both sides has been (?settled). Brig Gen Fadil 'Abd ad-Dayim, secretary general of the Northern Sinai Governorate, stressed that the people of Rafah will be compensated for their land and build ngs. Egyptian families residing in Palestinian Rafah will be allowed to return to Egyptian territory.

Two Sinai Airports Received

NC200832 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Apr 82

[Text] Starting tomorrow, Egyptian equipment will be moved into the liberated areas in northern Sinai to operate vital installations there and to ensure the continuation of normal life in those areas from the day that they will be handed over on 25 April.

A committee from the Civil Aviation Authority will enter the liberated areas today to receive and operate the (al-Jawrah) and (Ra's an-Naqb) airports. Egyptian authorities will also today receive the health installations and units in the towns of Rafah and (Ash-Shaykh Dhuwayyib).

Northern Sinai Governor Sabri Abu Talib has stated that technical working groups have chosen the sites for new housing projects that will be implemented following the completion of the Israeli withdrawal on 25 April.

Equipment for the press center that the information authority will establish in the town of Al-'Arish will arrive tomorrow. The center will facilitate the mission of over 500 Egyptian and foreign journalists who will cover the celebrations marking the return of the liberated areas.

Commentary Backs Peace Process

NC191432 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Ahmad al-Qasir commentary: "The Success of the Peace Process is an Effective Step Toward a Comprehensive Settlement in the Middle East"]

[Text] When President Husni Mubarak affirmed, during yesterday's meeting with the U.S. under secretary of state, Egypt's firm and principled stand on the peace process and its full commitment to respect and implement the Camp David accords and the peace treaty, he was also affirming Egypt's strong interest in the continuation of the peace process as a strategic principle from which it cannot deviate and about which it will not allow anyone to maneuver. In addition to previous announcements by senior Egyptian officials, these affirmations came as an emphatic answer to all attempts to cast doubt on Egypt's position.

While Egypt, has announced its adherence to this clear line to give momentum to the peace efforts as the only way that it can prepare the ground for achievement of a comprehensive and just political settlement that will ensure the legitimate rights of all peoples in the area, we do not have the slightest doubt about the keenness of all other parties concerned -- and we mean here Israel and the United States -- to adhere to the same principle and try to make it succeed.

From this premise we can understand the intensive diplomatic moves and efforts the area has recently witnessed. These efforts were manifested in the U.S. under secretary of state's visit to Egypt and Israel, Israeli Defense Minister Sharon's visit to Cairo and Dr Butrus Ghali's visit to Israel to hold talks with Menahem Begin and senior Israeli officials. Also within this framework is the visit Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali are paying to Israel today to discuss ways of resolving the border problems and agreeing on the method for a solution prior to the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai on 25 April.

The whole world has recently been gripped by extreme anxiety for fear of a deterioration in the situation in the area as a result of the events that took place in the West Bank and Gaza, the attack on the holy mosque compound and the possibility of a renewed flareup in the situation in southern Lebanon and the collapse of the existing cease-fire between Israel and the Palestinians there, which could have a direct effect on the implementation of the peace treaty and the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the remaining part of the Sinai on schedule. The world was thus affirming its concern for the need to bring about the success of the peace process and to continue this process as the natural outcome of the method of direct dialogue, which has become the civilized method for solving all international problems between conflicting parties.

While Egypt has announced its full commitment to implement the peace treaty before and after 25 April and to continue normalizing its relations with Israel, Israel, too, must implement the peace treaty and not allow any lateral problems concerning the demarcation of the borderline between the two countries to affect the completion of the withdrawal from the Sinai on schedule. This will encourage other Arab parties to join the peace process and effectively share in the efforts to achieve a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East area.

MOSCOW WELCOMES AMBASSADOR'S RETURN TO CAIRO

NC182233 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA) -- The newspaper MAY reports in tomorrow's edition that the Soviet Union has expressed its welcome over the return of its ambassador to Cairo at a time to be fixed by Egypt and on the basis of nominating an Egyptian ambassador to Moscow.

MUBARAK RECEIVES LETTER FROM FRG'S SCHMIDT

NC171555 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1304 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA) -- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today received a letter for President Husni Mubarak from FRG Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Dr Butrus Ghali received the letter during a meeting today with Dr Kurt Mueller, FRG ambassador in Cairo.

At the meeting, they reviewed matters of mutual interest, particularly in connection with the peace process, developments in the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai and topics related to the negotiations on autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

AKHBAR AL-YAWM SUPPORTS STRONG MILITARY

PM190845 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 10 Apr 82 p 8

[Chief editor Ibrahim Sa'dah article: "Our Armed Forces"]

[Excerpts] In a few days' time the Egyptian flag will be hoisted over the towns of Sharm ash-Shaykh and Rafah as a symbol of the recovery of Sinai -- both north and south -- after long years of Israeli occupation. It is a great event that gladdens and fills hearts with pride. Since June 1967, the Egyptian people have been dreaming of this day, the day when their armed forces would succeed in restoring the occupied territory and Egyptian sovereignty over Egyptian land snatched from us in a lightning and bloody war.

A great part of the dream was achieved in October 1973, when Egyptian Armed Forces achieved what the people expected of them. They achieved their biggest and greatest victory in the first real test they faced. The 1973 war was a real war in the full sense of the word as far as preparedness, timing and tactics were concerned. It was a war that gave the Egyptian fighter the opportunity to prove his ability, sacrifice himself for his country and restore dignity and honor to the Egyptian military uniform. What happened in June 1967 had nothing to do with the kind of war to which armies are accustomed; it was a military adventure in which a great injustice was done to the Egyptian soldier, whom some people blamed for the defeat and the withdrawal.

The Egyptian fighter's image changed after the October war, and the whole world knew the truth about him. He was praised by enemies before friends. What he achieved in the October war amazed military experts and made them revise their calculations. It is true that the October victory did not restore the whole of the Sinai, but it certainly gave Egyptian negotiators the opportunity to restore through peace what could not be restored through war. It was neither conceivable nor acceptable that Egypt would go to the negotiating table defeated and wounded. It was acceptable for the two sides to negotiate as equals and to sit at the negotiating table with neither being the victor or the vanquished.

The achievement of peace does not mean military relaxation. Some people imagined that the end of war between Egypt and Israel meant disbanding the armed forces, neglecting their role, reducing their armament and limiting their capabilities. These people did not hesitate to raise strange questions; they objected to continuing to provide the armed forces with modern weapons and to reorganizing and retraining them in accordance with the latest scientific military methods, as in the most advanced countries.

Not only that, some people demanded the abolition of compulsory military service and the adoption of volunteer military service on the grounds that the Egyptian Army no longer needed such a large number of recruits year after year, since Egypt had recovered its territory and signed an agreement ending the war with Israel.

Fortunately, we did not accept such naive ideas. Otherwise, we would have committed a serious crime against our people and the coming generation.

It is strange, therefore, how some people are demanding that, having achieved peace, we should relax militarily. It is as if the peace treaty between the two countries provided for the abolition of the armed forces or that the only danger we could face came from Israel alone.

During the past 30 years a sister Arab country, Iraq, talked about the coming war with Israel. The modern weapons it had been buying were primarily intended to strike at Israel or to protect Iraq itself against Israeli aggresssion. Iraqi Armed Forces had plans and theories whose only objective was an expected war with Israel. However, war broke out with a different enemy, a war that was not expected and has now been going on between Iraq and Iran for 2 years.

What happened to Iraq could happen to any other country; it could happen to Egypt. Egyptian borders could be the target of invasion by an enemy that has not been taken into consideration. The area in which we live is surrounded by dangers, enemies, schemes, and endless conflicts. With or without good reason, Egypt could find itself in a state of legitimate self-defense or of defending its independence or the principles and agreements it has committed itself to honor. In this case, Egypt would have only its armed forces to defend its borders, repel the aggressors and thwart the designs of those who sought its collapse. This could be done only if its armed forces were able to resist, fight and triumph.

This was what President Husni Mubarak meant when he told the Third Army the day before yesterday that "our armed forces must remain strong, capable of confronting any external danger threatening the country's security and stability and able to carry out any task assigned to them for this purpose."

President Mubarak was clear about the need to develop the Egyptian Army, which he described as the strong shield protecting any political decision taken by Egypt.

Peace does not mean relaxation on our borders, and security and stability do not mean weakening our army or neglecting the armament of our forces. If we did these things, peace would be lost and security would vanish in no time.

SAUDI DAILY INTERVIEWS EGYPTIAN OPPOSITION LEADER

GF161637 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 13 Apr 82 pp 10, 11

[Interview granted to AL JAZIRAH by Khalid Muhyi ad-Din, leader of the Egyptian National Progressive Unionist Party (NPUP) -- no date or place given]

[Excerpts] [Question] It has been announced more than once by some Egyptian politicians that circumstances now permit the resumption of relations between Egypt and the Arab states. It has also been announced that an Egyptian delegation from the opposition parties will take the first step by visiting the Arab states in order to prepare for the official resumption of relations. What is your opinion on this issue?

[Answer] The issue of Arab-Egyptian relations is not a simple one. I don't believe that it is the Egyptian parties who prepare for this thing, although the parties can play an important role in establishing contacts with popular organizations and parties in the Arab world.

Naturally, the opposition parties are more capable than anyone of playing this role, because the stand of the opposition parties in Egypt, particularly our party, is closer to the Arab stand than to the Egyptian stand that was adopted under previous circumstances.

However, in my opinion, the question of resuming Egyptian-Arab relations -- as we have said -- is subject to a hard equation that truly exists in Egyptian life. Egypt has a treaty with Israel, and the Arab workd has severed its relations with Egypt because of this treaty. We must resolve a difficult equation.

So how can we solve this equation? This requires an enormous effort on the part of the Arab states and on Egypt's part as well. Egypt says it cannot abrogate the treaty. So what is the approach? Of course, the Egyptian-Israeli treaty consisted of a second part, which is half of the treaty, and that has not been implemented. This is the part known as the autonomy negotiations. Egypt decided not to get involved in any agreement or announcement of principles that might be rejected by the Palestinian people or by the PLO. Thus, so far -- despite all U.S. and Israeli attempts to announce certain principles prior to 25 April -- Egypt has continued to adopt a positive and constructive stand. The Egyptian Government rejects this.

[Question] Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz announced the Arab peace plan that has been approved by many Arab states and supported by many European states. What is your view on this plan as a real approach for resolving the Palestinian question and for resuming Egyptian-Arab relations?

[Answer] The party did not discuss the plan because the text of the plan was not sent to any Arab states and because it did not have any explanatory memorandum. It was merely an announcement of principles.

Personally, I see that it is hard to reject this plan. Why? Because the principles included in it were not opposed by our party; for instance, the withdrawal from all territories, the return of refugees, the Arab Palestinian state -- whose capital would be Jerusalem -- the elimination of settlements, the end of the war, the recognition of Arab rights and, of course, the acceptance of Israel as a reality, because you cannot end the state of war or reach an agreement without accepting the Israeli reality. In exchange, the PLO must be included.

At the same time, this must take place within the framework of the United Nations and under the guarantee of the two superpowers, which are the Soviet Union and the United States.

We see that this plan must be associated with another issue, which is the necessity of keeping the Middle East region and the Arabian Gulf free of the military presence of all superpowers and free of nuclear weapons, bases and fleets. We also see that these countries can defend themselves and that this region is important because oil flows from it to the entire world. We see that all countries have the right to guarantee the neutrality of this region and that this region must not be a region of conflict. I don't imagine that the foreign military presence in the region protects the region, because it encourages and excites the appetite of colonialism to attempt to create a presence in the region. The region's states can defend themselves against foreign aggression. For instance, the Soviet Union knows well that if it tries to attack this region militarily, the United States will intervene. So, it is better for this region to stay away from international conflicts and away from the military presence of the superpowers.

[Question] What is your political view of the future of current Egyptian-Israeli relations? What are the precautions you must take into consideration just in case Israel attempts to exploit Egypt's attempts to return to the Arab ranks by taking actions that may harm Egypt's political, economic, security or military interests?

[Answer] We see that the Egyptian Government faces a reality -- it has a treaty. As a unionist party, we oppose the treaty and shall continue to struggle against this treaty forever, because we see that this treaty is not equal because it imposed huge conditions and took many concessions from Egypt in addition to concessions on the issue of the Palestinian question.

We see this as the battle of the national movement even following 25 April. We said that we cannot ask Husni Mubarak to abrogate the treaty while there is only a month to go until the withdrawal. Egypt paid a heavy price for this withdrawal, so let it regain the land. However, this does not mean that the struggle of the Egyptian national movement against all forms of "inequality" in the treaty should stop.

[Question] Do you believe that Egypt is politically, economically and militarily prepared to wage a new war against Israel if such a war erupts between Israel and the Arab confrontation states any time before 25 April, the date of the final [Israeli] withdrawal from the remaining part of the Sinai?

[Answer] The participation of the Egyptian Army in the presence of the multinational forces will be difficult. At the present time Egypt is not thinking of a military battle. However, I believe that the Egyptian Government is one thing and the Egyptian people are another. The Egyptian people can stand up with all their resources -- which are plentiful -- in order to support any Arab country that is attacked. I believe that the Egyptian Government too will not accept an Israeli aggression against an Arab country because the Egyptian treaty is aimed at peace and not at accepting aggression. I imagine that if Israel attacks any Arab country the Egyptian Government will have a stand on this. By disregarding the treaty restrictions, Egypt and its people can stand by any Arab country. There are many methods to support the Arab countries. Hence, I say that Egypt and the Arab world can do a lot in order to deter Israel and prevent its aggression.

BRIEFS

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TRANSFERRED -- Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA) -- 'Abd al-Fattah Ibrahim, deputy prime minister for economic and financial affairs, today received the Japanese ambassador in Cairo, Mr Yamazaki, on the ambassador's transfer to the post of ambassador to Indonesia. Mr Muhammad 'Abd al-Fattah voiced appreciation for the efforts the Japanese ambassador made during his assignment in Cairo. The volume of Egyptian-Japanese economic cooperation has increased from 30 to 46 billion Yen per annum. [Text] [Cairo MENA in Arabic 1326 GMT 17 Apr 82 NC]

AL-KARIM CALLS FOR SANCTIONS AGAINST SYRIA

JN181300 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Nicosia -- Iraqi Oil Minister Tayih 'Abd al-Karim declared that Iraq will ask Arab countries to impose sanctions on Syria for closing the Iraqi oil pipeline passing through Syrian territory to the Mediterranean. In an interview with the MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY [MEES] published today, 'Abd al-Karim said: If an Arab League member adopts a measure harming the interests of another Arab member, then sanctions must be imposed on that state, including boycott. The Iraqi oil minister said Iraq would ask Arab states to adopt firm measures against the Syrian regime for openly violating the principles of joint Arab action and the meaning of fraternity, nationalism and good neighborliness.

In addition, the Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM reported today that Kuwait and several Gulf countries are examining means to assist Iraq since the Syrian authorities have closed the Iraqi oil pipeline passing through Syrian territory. The paper gave no further details, but Gulf sources described the Syrian decision as hostile to Iraq and the Gulf states and contrary to the interests of the Arab people in Syria and Iraq.

ISLAMIC GOOD OFFICES COMMITTEE ARRIVES 19 APRIL

JN191641 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA) -- Ahmed Sekou Toure, Guinean president and head of the Islamic Good Offices Committee and his accompanying delegation arrived here today. The Guinean president and his accompanying delegation were accorded an official reception headed by President Saddam Husayn. Also present to welcome the delegation were 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council [RCC] vice chairman; Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf; Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; RCC members; ministers and ranking Iraqi officials.

In addition to the Guinean president, the delegation comprises Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization; Guinean Foreign Minister El Hadj Abdoulaye Toure; and El Hadj Moussa Diakite, Guinean minister of housing, state lands and urban affairs. Earlier today, President Ahmed Sekou Toure visited Tehran where he held talks with Iranian President Khamene'i.

Received by Husayn

JN191735 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA) -- A session of talks was held here this evening between President Saddam Husayn and Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, head of the Islamic Good Offices Committee, which is entrusted to seek a solution to the Iraqi-Iranian dispute. The Guinean president explained the results of the committee's efforts. President Saddam Husayn reiterated Iraq's readiness to settle the dispute with Iran through peaceful means and in accordance with the principles that had been defined by the Islamic summit conference in At-Ta'if, principles to which Iraq had always remained committed because they are based on international laws and norms and are in harmony with the legitimate rights that Iraq is calling for.

The session of talks was attended on the Iraqi side by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman; Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf; Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; National Assembly Speaker Na'im Haddad; Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz; Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah; Minister of Transport and Communications Sa'dun Ghaydan; acting chief of the president's office Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah; and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Hamid 'Alwan. On the Islamic Good Offices Committee side the talks were attended by Secretary General of the Islamic Conference Organization Habib Chatti and Guinean Foreign Minister El Hadj Abdoulaye Toure.

Committee Departs

JN191742 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA) -- The Islamic Good Offices Committee, headed by Guinean President Ahmed Sekou Toure, left Baghdad this evening at the end of a visit to Iraq that lasted several hours. President Saddam Husayn headed a group which saw the delegation off. Also present were 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution command Council [RCC] member; Vice President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf; Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; RCC members; ministers and ranking Iraqi officials.

ALGERIAN ENVOY ARRIVES WITH MESSAGE FOR HUSAYN

JN161633 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA) -- Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid's personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn and the minister of foreign affairs, arrived here this evening with a message for President Saddam Husayn. The Algerian envoy was welcomed at the airport by Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi.

Received by Husayn

JN171213 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1205 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA) -- At noon today, President Saddam Husayn received Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia. The Algerian minister conveyed an oral message to President Saddam Husayn from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid on the current Arab situation in particular and the current situation in the region in general. The two sides also discussed bilateral relations and the Iraqi-Iranian war. The meeting was attended by Tariq Hamad al-'Abdallah, Revolution Command Council secretary and acting chief of the president's office, and Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi.

Envoys Departs

JN171618 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA) -- Algerian envoy and Foreign Minister Mohamed Seddik Ben Yahia left Baghdad this afternoon following a 1-day visit to Iraq.

HAMMADI RECEIVES CSSR'S CHNOUPEK 19 APRIL

JN191346 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1238 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA) -- Foreign Minister Dr Sa'dun Hammadi and his CSSR counterpart Bohuslav Chnoupek held a round of talks here today. It has been learned the two ministers discussed bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in the economic, cultural, party and popular spheres. They also discussed the Palestinian question, the current situation in the occupied Arab territories, the latest developments in the Iraqi-Iranian dispute, the Persian aggression against the Arab homeland's eastern flank, Iraq's preparations for the seventh summit conference of the Nonaligned heads of states or governments to be convened in Baghdad in September, the issue of disarmament and other international issues. Chnoupek arrived in Baghdad yesterday on a visit to Iraq that will last several days.

'Ali Meets

JN191740 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Hasan 'Ali, Revolution Command Council member and trade minister met here today with CSSR Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek and his accompanying delegation. Hasan 'Ali welcomed the delegation and stressed the development of relations of friendship and cooperation between Iraq and the CSSR. The two sides reviewed the progress of these relations and stressed the importance of bilateral visits and meetings. They also expressed satisfaction with the continued implementation of the resolutions of the fourth session of the joint Iraqi-CSSR committee held in Baghdad last January.

Hasan 'Ali spoke about the Syrian regime's measures which contradict all international norms and laws. The CSSR foreign minister asserted that these measures adversely affect the economy of his country as well as the other socialist countries and also affect their foreign trade and economic commitments. He also reconfirmed his country's support for Iraq's peaceful policy and its role in the nonaligned movement, stressing the importance of holding the movement's seventh summit conference which will further consolidate the struggle of the developing countries and the struggle for preserving world peace. The meeting was attended by the CSSR ambassador in Baghdad.

ARAB LEAGUE'S KLIBI ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD 19 APRIL

JN190802 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA) -- Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived here last night on a visit to Iraq within the context of his Arab tour.

In a statement to INA, Klibi hailed the Iraqi people's steadfastness and their rallying around President leader Saddam Husayn, adding that this country is waging its battle valiantly in defense of Arab right. He said: Every time I visit Baghdad I feel imbued with further apprehension and worry due to the grave challenges facing the Arab Gulf region, particularly since the Iraqi-Iranian was has almost entered its second year. The Arab League secretary general said that during his tour of Arab and Islamic capitals he sensed unanimity on the need to intensify efforts to stop this war which, if expanded, would engulf the entire region.

Klibi said: We laud the steadfastness of the brave Iraqi people and their rallying around their struggling leadership. We also bless all efforts that are being exerted by the Islamic and nonaligned countries, hoping that these efforts will be crowned with success so that peace will be achieved and rights will be given to their owners.

ISLAMIC MEDIATION DELEGATION ENDS VISIT

JN161435 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA) -- The delegation of the World Islamic Conference led by M.H. Mohamed, Sri Lanka minister of transport and religious affairs, left Baghdad this afternoon. In a statement to INA, the head of the delegation thanked President Saddam Husayn for his positive spirit and response during his meeting with the delegation the day before yesterday. He also expressed the hope that the delegation's efforts will be conducive to the good of Muslims. The delegation was seen off by Awqaf Minister 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Ghafur. The delegation visited Iran earlier and held talks with Iranian officials.

ARMED FORCES COMMAND ISSUES COMMUNIQUES

Communique No 679

JN161626 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Apr (INA) -- During the past 24 hours, Iraqi forces killed 16 Iranians and destroyed 2 tanks, 5 vehicles, 1 gun, 1 excavator, 2 stockpiles of hardware and 1 observation post. The military communique of the Armed Forces General Command added the military operations took place in the Mimak, Bostan, Khafajiyah [Susangerd], Shush, Nowsud and Abadan areas as well as the area opposite Panjwin. The Iraqi losses were three martyrs in all sectors. The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 679 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The forces of Saddam's glorious Al-Qadisiyah [battle] continued their activities in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today. The results of these activites were as follows:

1. One of our forward units opened fire on a group of enemy troops in the Mimak area opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd, killing five.
2. Five were killed in the Bostan sector.
3. Three were killed and one vehicle and one observation post destroyed in the Khafajiyah area.
4. One was killed and four vehicles and one excavator destroyed in the Shush area.
5. Two were killed in the Nowsud area.
6. Two tanks were destroyed in the Iranian area opposite Panjwin.
7. One gun and two stockpiles of hardware were destroyed in the Abadan area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 16 killed and 2 tanks, 5 vehicles, 1 gun, 1 excavator, 2 stockpiles of hardware and 1 observation post destroyed.

8. Our sacrifices: Three martyrs in all sectors.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 16 April 1982

Communique No 680

JN171707 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA) -- Iraqi forces inflicted losses on the Iranian forces during the past 24 hours amounting to 23 killed and 7 vehicles, 6 of which were carrying soldiers, 1 gun, 1 stockpile of hardware and 4 observation posts destroyed. Communique No 680 issued this evening by the Iraqi Armed Forces General Command said Iraqi fighter planes today continued their successful raids against the Iranian enemy positions and concentrations in the central and southern sectors of the operations theater, scoring direct and effective hits before returning safely to base. The communique said our sacrifices amounted to five martyrs in all sectors. The following is the text of Communique No 680 issued by the Armed Forces General Command:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The forces of noble Iraq continued their activities in the operational sectors last night and today, with the following results:

1. Our forward units pounded enemy concentrations in the Abadan area, killing 15 and destroying 6 vehicles carrying soldiers, 1 gun, 1 stockpile of hardware and 1 observation post.
2. Our valiant eagles continued their successful raids against enemy positions and concentrations in the central and southern sectors of the operations theater, scoring direct and effective hits, before returning safely to base.
3. Four were killed in the Shush area.
4. Three were killed in the Nowsud area.
5. One was killed and three observation posts destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.
6. One vehicle destroyed in the Bostan sector.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 23 killed and 7 vehicles, 1 gun, 1 stockpile of hardware and 4 observation posts destroyed.

7. Our sacrifices: Five martyrs in all sectors.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 Apr 1982

Communique No 681

JN181725 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The blessed sons of Iraq continue their valiant fighting against the forces of the criminal Khomeyni clique so that the Iraqi people will not be humiliated and their holy land will not be desecrated. The results of the activities carried out yesterday evening and today were as follows:

1. Our forward units sighted an enemy troop concentration in the Mimak area opposite our positions in Sayf Sa'd. Our forces opened fire on it, killing 13.
2. Our aircraft today attacked enemy positions and units in the central and southern sectors of the battlefield, scoring direct and effective hits. Explosions were heard and billows of smoke were seen rising from the attacked targets. All our aircraft returned safely to base.
3. Today our helicopters carried out daring raids against enemy positions and concentrations in the central sector of the battlefield, inflicting heavy losses before returning safely to base.
4. Four were killed and two guns and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Mehran area.
5. Four were killed in the Iranian area opposite Panjwin.
6. Three were killed and one stockpile of hardware destroyed in the Khafajiyah [Susangerd] area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 24 killed and 2 guns and 2 stockpiles of hardware destroyed.

7. Our sacrifices: Eight martyrs in all sectors.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 Apr 1982

Communique No 682

JN191706 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA) -- Iraqi fighter planes continued today their raids against enemy positions and concentrations in the southern sector of the battlefield.

The military communique issued by the Armed Forces General Command stated that Iraqi fighter planes scored direct and effective hits against enemy positions and concentrations and all returned safely to base. During the past 24 hours, the Iranian enemy sustained 19 killed and 1 gun, 1 excavator, 2 stockpiles of ammunition and 4 observation posts were destroyed. Military activities took place in the sectors of Ahvaz, Abadan, Sumar and Khafajiyah [Susangerd]. The communique put Iraqi losses at two martyrs in all sectors and one vehicle damaged. The following is the text of Communique No 682 issued by the Armed Forces General Command.

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The valiant soldiers of Iraq and the Arab nation continued their activities in the operational sectors yesterday evening and today with the following results:

1. Our forward units struck enemy positions and concentrations in the Ahvaz area will all kinds of weapons, killing nine and destroying one observation post.
2. The valiant eagles of our air force raided enemy positions and concentrations in the southern sector of the battlefield scoring direct and effective hits. All our planes returned safely to base.
3. Five were killed and one gun, one stockpile of ammunition and one observation post destroyed in the Abadan area.
4. Three were killed and one observation post destroyed in Sumar area.
5. Two were killed and one excavator, one stockpile of ammunition and one observation post destroyed in the Khafajiyah area.

Thus, total known enemy losses amount to 19 killed and 1 gun, 1 excavator, 2 stockpiles of ammunition and 4 observation posts destroyed.

6. Our sacrifices:

   A. In personnel: Two martyrs in all sectors.
   B. In equipment: One vehicle damaged.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 April 1982

MILITARY SOURCE DENIES DOWNING OF IRAQI AIRCRAFT

JN191010 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Apr (INA) -- A responsible source at the Armed Forces General Command denied Iranian claims that an Iraqi fighter plane was shot down near Abadan yesterday. In a statement to INA, the source said the Tehran radio report on the downing of the Iraqi fighter plane is pure fabrication and completely unfounded. The source added that Iraqi fighter planes yesterday raided enemy positions and units in the central and southern sectors of the operations theater, scoring direct and effective hits. The source reaffirmed that all Iraqi fighter planes returned safely to base as stipulated in the military communique of yesterday.

KING HUSAYN ISSUES APPOINTMENT DECREES

Consultative Council

JN200617 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 20 Apr 82

[Text] The following royal decree was issued yesterday: We, Husayn I, king of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, after taking cognizance of Article III A of the National Consultative Council [NCC] Law No 17 of 1978, and in accordance with the prime minister's recommendation, decree the following: The following will be appointed NCC members effective 20 April 1982:

'Abd al-Wahhab al-Majali, Kamal ad-Dajani, Dr Khalil as-Salim, Dr Ahmad Abu Qurah, Eng Yahya al-Khatib, 'Abd al-Majid al-Hijazi, Dr Ya'Qub Abu Ghawsh, 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah, 'Abd al-Majid ash-Shuraydah, 'Umar an-Nabulsi, Eng 'Umar 'Abdallah, Anis al-Mu'ashshir, Marwan al-Humud, Dr Muhammad 'Udub az-Zabin, Eng Sa'id Binu, Sulayman 'Arar, 'Abd ar-Ra'uf ar-Rawabidah, Eng 'Ali as-Suhaymat, Tahir Hikmat, Dr Jamal ash-Sha'ir, Eng 'Awni al-Masri, Salman al-Qudat, 'Atallah al-Kabariti, Khalid al-Fayyad, Sulayman Irtimah, Salim ibn Njad, Muhammad 'Ali Budayr, Amin Shuqayr, Dr Carlos Di'mis, Mrs Layla Sharaf, Sultan Majid al-'Adwan, 'Abdallah Akhu Rushaydah, Hammad 'Ali al-Ma'aytah, Jawdat as-Subul, Khalaf Abu Nuwayr, Khalid 'Abd an-Nabi, Dr Ishaq Maraqah, Mamduh Abu Hassan, Miflih al-Lawzi, Muhammad Ibrahim al-'Izzih, 'Abd ar-Rahim Jarrar, 'Izz ad-Din al-Khatib at-Tamimi, Faris as-Sarayirah, Dr Hasan al-Gharayibah, Nizar Jardanah, Eng Layth Shubaylat, Dr Muhammad Sa'id Darwish, Mijhim Hadith al-Khuraysah, Dr Hani Hujazin, Hamdi al-Habashinah, Nimr az-Zinati, Ibrahim al-Mataliqah, 'Abd al-Halim Samarah, Dr Yahya Khurays, Mahmud al-Kayid, Mrs Hayfa' Malhis al-Bashir, Hisham at-Tall, 'Abd al-Qadir al-'Umari, Sa'd Hayil as-Surur, Miqbil al-Mumani, 'Id al-'Alaya, 'Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman Khashman, Dr Faysal Kan'an, Muhammad Ramadan Faris, 'Abn al-Jabir Tayyim, Eng Hani Abu Hijlah, 'Abd as-Salam 'Isa Qasim, Mrs Samiyah Nadim az-Zaru, 'Isa Al-'abid ar-Rimuni, Mrs 'Idah al-Mutlaq, Dr Hamduh 'Abbadi, Samih al-Farah, 'Ali Abu Rubayhah, Falah 'Awwad al-Mukhaymar and Hisham ash-Sharari.

Council Speaker, Senator

JN191828 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] A royal decree has been issued appointing Sulayman 'Arar speaker of the National Consultative Council. A royal decree has also been issued appointing Ahmad at-Tarawinah member of the senate.

Interior, Intelligence

JN191825 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] A royal decree has been issued accepting the resignation of Interior Minister Sulayman 'Arar effective 19 April 1982. A royal decree has also been issued approving the appointment of Ahmad 'Ubaydat as interior minister effective 20 April 1982, and the appointment of Maj Gen Tariq 'Ala' ad-Din as director of General Intelligence.

ARAB LEAGUE SECRETARY GENERAL ARRIVES IN AMMAN

JN191820 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Amman from Baghdad this evening on a 1-day visit to Jordan for talks with senior state officials on most important issues concerning the Arab world. He was received at Amman International Airport by Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

AD-DUSTUR ON ARABS, ISRAEL, UN SECURITY COUNCIL

JN160750 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Apr 82

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "Complaints by the Weak Are a Humiliation," AD-DUSTUR says: It would have been better for the Arab and Islamic states not to go to the UN Security Council seeking a denunciation of Israel for its aggression against the Al-Aqsa Mosque and for firing at worshippers, since they knew in advance that the United States has shaken confidence in the council and rendered it incapable of performing its mission.

The Arab and Islamic states' call on the Security Council to hold an emergency meeting has only resulted in a draft resolution, which made no mention of Israel's responsibility for committing the crime, massing its forces to suppress demonstrations and opening fire at citizens in a bestial and resentful manner. The Arab and Islamic states should have faced the situation firmly and solidly since [they knew] the result would be a U.S. veto to protect and encourage Israel to continue its aggression.

AD-DUSTUR adds: The United States is responsible for weakening confidence in the UN Security Council and hindering its efforts to maintain peace whenever the matter pertains to Israel and its repeated crimes. The only language Israel understands is that of power. It cannot change its stand or stop its aggression unless it senses Arab power, a matter which is not provided by the United States or the Security Council. Arab power depends first and foremost on pooling the Arab states' energies and potential to build a strength capable of deterring Israel and those behind it. The Arabs must realize that the complaint of the impotent is humiliation, but the voice of the strong can work miracles.

AMMAN DAILY URGES MUBARAK NOT TO SUCCUMB TO ISRAEL

JN170949 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Apr 82 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Egypt and the Dangerous Maneuver"]

[Text] The crisis Israel has fabricated and is now escalating, only 10 days before the final withdrawal from Sinai, is in fact a dangerous maneuver against the future of the West Bank and Gaza and the destiny of the Palestinian Arab people.

Reports have indicated that Israeli claims about Egyptian violations of the peace treaty and the differences over the demarcation of the border are no more than weak excuses Israel is using to delay its withdrawal and achieve its main objective of keeping Egypt isolated from the rest of the Arab world. Israel wants to obtain a written pledge from President Husni Mubarak agreeing to an amendment to the Camp David accords that would cancel everything in them relating to the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Israel wants to repeat the game it played during the signing of the disengagement agreement with Egypt in 1974, when it obtained a pledge from the United States that it would not recognize the PLO or hold talks with it. Menahem Begin is now trying through a five-point document to obtain a similar pledge from Egypt that it will not hold any contacts with the PLO. This would mean Egypt's continued isolation from the rest of the Arab world and its disavowal of its pan-Arab responsibility toward the Palestinian people and their cause. One of Begin's conditions is that Egypt must stop condemning Israel for its behavior in the occupied territories. In other words, Begin wants Egypt to remain silent on Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people, annexation of the West Bank and Gaza and encroachment on and desecration of the holy places.

President Mubarak's stand thus far has been satisfactory, because he has rejected all Israeli pressures and conditions and has refused to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians or abandon their national rights. We do hope President Mubarak will maintain this stand even if it leads to delaying Israel's withdrawal from the rest of the Sinai. After all, a piece of Sinai land is not more precious than Jerusalem, the West Bank, the Golan Heights or the Gaza Strip.

Anwar as-Sadat paid dearly for his submission to Israeli blackmail and U.S. promises and for his withdrawal from the Arab fold. Egypt will also pay dearly if it allows its national will to be held for ransom by Israel's threat to delay withdrawal from the Sinai. Israel wants Egypt's withdrawal from the Arab world in return for its withdrawal from the Sinai. It wants to make Egyptian policy subject to Israeli pressure and plans, just as it has made U.S. policy subject to such pressure and plans. We warn President Mubarak of this dangerous Israeli maneuver and beseech him, in the interest of Egypt and the Palestinian people, to reject all Zionist pressure and not to rely on U.S. promises, because Washington itself is not free to make any decision without the blessing of its strategic allies in Tel Aviv.

President Mubarak's refusal to sign a memo on the autonomy talks has led to the suspension of those talks. The heroism and sacrifices of the Palestinian people have led to the foiling of the civil administration conspiracy. Therefore, the Egyptian president's rejection of Begin's conditions will most definitely defeat the dangerous Israeli maneuver against the future of the Palestinian people and the destiny of the West Bank and Gaza.

AD-DUSTUR ON ALGERIA'S BID TO END IRAQI-IRANIAN WAR

JN200859 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Apr 82 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "The Algerian Initiative"]

[Text] Algeria's efforts to end the war between Iraq and Iran are bound to support efforts being exerted by Islamic and nonaligned countries to end the fighting, which has been raging for a long time and which is now threatening the region's security and safety by driving the region toward the vortex of international conflict.

Although the Algerian attempt is somewhat late, it deserves appreciation, as no Arab or Muslim should abstain from making good efforts to end this war. It is a duty dictated by reason, religion and zeal in service of Arabs and Muslims.

These endeavors and the dispatch of the Algerian envoy to Baghdad and Tehran come at a time when an Arab state has chosen to place all its political, military and information weight frankly and overtly in favor of Iran and against Iraq. Some Arab countries and quarters are instigating Iran to continue the war, and one of them is even supplying Iran with arms and military experts, closing its border with Iraq and halting the flow of Iraqi oil through its territory.

We can understand some Arabs' reservations over this war that has been imposed on Iraq. We also can understand if some Arabs do not adopt neutrality, but what we cannot understand is the efforts some Arab countries are exerting to stab Iraq.

We hope the Algerian initiative will proceed with firmness and inflexibility to end the war. Algeria undoubtedly need not be thanked by Arabs and Muslims. Previously, Algeria successfully mediated the hostages crisis between Iran and the United States. We are confident that Algerian efforts will receive a positive response from Iraq, which declared right from the beginning and from a victorious position of strength that it would end the war if Iran recognized its rights and sovereignty. This stand has been repeatedly confirmed to the Islamic good will committee and to nonaligned and UN envoys. All that remains is for Tehran to heed the voice of reason, logic and wisdom and respond to the good offices. Only then will it be easy to settle differences by means of dialogue and negotiations and to establish strong bases for new strong relations between Iran on the one hand and Iraq and the Arab world on the other in the interest of the entire region.

VOP ON HIGHER COORDINATION COMMITTEE MEETING

JN181548 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] The Higher Coordination Committee meeting held yesterday to put an end to the clashes between different groups in the Lebanese national arena decided on a number of measures after a 6-hour-long working session. Among the participants was PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The meeting was reportedly frank and objective and discussed all means to ensure a final cease-fire. These subcommittees were formed to safeguard the cease-fire in the south, west Beirut and the southern suburbs of Beirut respectively and the committees began meeting immediately. A factfinding commission has also been carried out to identify the causes behind the clashes and an overall working plan is being drawn up designed to avoid future confrontations. Another meeting of the committee is planned in Damascus over the next few days.

'ARAFAT MEETS SHI'ITE LEADER TO CONTAIN CLASHES

NC190704 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], accompanied by Fatah Central Committee member Hani al-Hasan, yesterday visited deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din. His Eminence Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan was present.

Discussions during the meeting dealt with the latest developments in the Lebanese arena, especially in the wake of the regrettable incidents and clashes that took place recently among members of the national ranks. The conferees also studied the results of the contacts made in this connection and discussed the explosive situation in southern Lebanon in light of the continuing Zionist concentrations and threats.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar and brother Hani al-Hasan then met with [Lebanese] deputy Husayn al-Husayni. They reviewed the latest developments in the Lebanese arena as well as the situation in southern Lebanon.

'ARAFAT CONFERS WITH MUFTI OF LEBANON

JN171551 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1500 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Fatah Central Committee member Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] met today with the mufti of Lebanon, Shaykh Hasan Khalid.

The meeting is part of the efforts being made by the Higher Coordination Committee to restore the situation in the national areas of Lebanon following the recent clashes.

MUFTI, JUNBLATT CALL FOR ADF INTERVENTION

NC161740 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Text] His Eminence Mufti of the Republic Shaykh Hasan Khalid met at 1430 today in his residence at 'Aramun with Mr Walid Junblatt, chairman of the Central Political Council of the National Movement. The meeting lasted until 1515.

After the meeting, his eminence the mufti and Mr Walid Junblatt called on all parties concerned to shun internecine fighting and reconcile themselves, particularly under the country's present critical and fateful circumstances.

His eminence and Mr Junblatt then called for the facilitation of the entry of the Arab Deterrent Forces and security forces into the areas which are now the scene of the clashes to restore calm, security and stability.

His Eminence Mufti Khalid met this evening with His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Islamic Higher Shi'ite Council, and discussed recent developments in the country.

SYRIA SAID PLANNING WITHDRAWAL FROM BEIRUT

PM190815 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Apr 82 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Syria To Regroup its Forces in Lebanon"]

[Text] According to Arab diplomatic sources in Beirut, Syria has decided to withdraw its remaining forces, totaling about 20,000 men, from Beirut as a precaution in anticipation of possible developments in the region. The sources expect these forces to be redeployed in Al-Biqa' or another area close to the Lebanese-Syrian borders.

The same sources have told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the date set for the withdrawal of these forces is 25 April, which is also the date agreed between Egypt and Israel for the completion of the Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai. Syria had withdrawn half of its forces, deployed in Lebanon as part of the Arab deterrent forces, when the violent clashes broke out in Hamah.

The sources say it is not unlikely the Syrian Arab Deterrent Forces will be replaced by forces from the Palestine Liberation Army and Syria's allies in Lebanon, particularly the Lebanese left, who in the past opposed any withdrawal of the deterrent forces from Lebanon.

The Syrian withdrawal decision has taken against the background of reports about an imminent Israeli attack on Lebanon before 25 April, and the Lebanese rightist leaders' threat to impose a military solution to the Lebanese crisis if present conditions continue. The presidential election is another factor affecting the turn of events. The sources say that if reports about an Israeli storming of southern Lebanon and a Syrian withdrawal materialize, the Lebanese right will not wait long before officially announcing its plan for partitioning Lebanon.

Lebanese military sources have affirmed to ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that a complete Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon is unlikely at present because of the prevailing Arab tension and the possibility of a Syrian-Israeli confrontation. They say that Syria's declaration of three principles for establishing peace with Israel, coming on the heels of Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, indicates that Syria's political leadership does not want to rule out a peaceful settlement.

Meanwhile, urgent contacts are underway in Arab capitals with the aim of reconvening the suspended summit conference, probably to discuss a complete Arab peace plan for the region. There are encouraging signs that Egypt might attend the summit conference, which is expected to be held in July 1982.

ATTACKS AGAINST LEBANESE MILITARY CONTINUE

NC191046 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Gunmen opened fire today at a Lebanese Army jeep that was traveling through (Al-Ansa) township in the north. The soldiers in the jeep returned the fire, wounding five of the attackers. They arrested three other attackers and took them to Al-Qulay'at Airport. Following this incident, men belonging to Ahmad al-Khatib [commander of the Arab Army of Lebanon] set up armed barriers in areas near the township, mainly on (Al-Kuwaykhat) junction and in Birqayil area.

Two 60-mm mortar shells fell on Mono Street [in Beirut] this morning, causing material damage. The shells were fired by armed positions in Muhammad al-Hut Street. The sound of intermittent gunfire was heard in the area extending between Sodeco and Mono Street.

Army Vehicles Ambushed

NC191300 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] A security source said that while they were being tested after engine maintenance work today, Lebanese Army vehicles were ambushed at Bqarzla Junction by armed personnel belonging to Ahmad al-Khatib [commander of the Arab Army of Lebanon]. A clash took place between the Lebanese soldiers and the armed men, resulting in the wounding of an armed man and detention of three others. The rest escaped.

FRENCH ENVOY, WIFE MURDERED IN BEIRUT

NC161724 Paris AFP in English 1709 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Text] Beirut, 16 Apr (AFP) -- The murder of an employee of the French consulate here and his wife could have been the work of "Carlos," the Venezuelan terrorist, Ambassador Paul-Marc Henry said today.

The slain official, Guy Cavallo, had a low rank in the diplomatic hierarchy and his work was [word indistinct] with Lebanese politics, the ambassador argued. The attack consequently did not aim at the person of the official, let alone at that of his wife Caroline, but at French nationals in general, any French nationals, the ambassador suggested.

He then recalled a recent ultimatum to the French Government from "Carlos" via the French Embassy in the Hague, demanding the release from a French prison of two of his comrades, a Swiss man and a West German woman, by April 15. Past that date, "Carlos" threatened violent action.

Illich Ramirez, known as "Carlos," has been implicated in terrorist activities in a dozen countries, including the 1975 killing of two French counter-espionage agents come to arrest him in a Paris apartment.

Ambassador Henry noted that the circumstances of yesterday's assassination would fit the "Carlos" style. The Cavallos were discovered shot in a lake of blood by friends they had invited to dinner. The assassin must have used a silencer since neighbors heard nothing -- he came, emptied his gun and was gone.

VOL CLAIMS FIGHTING IN ALEPPO CONTINUES

NC191409 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Caution and intermittent explosions still prevail in the Syrian city of Allepo. Bulldozers are removing debris from buildings destroyed by the artillery shelling, leaving areas in Hamah as empty lots of land.

Yesterday morning, a special squad surrounded one of the buildings in the (Al-Jumaliyah) locality near the tomb of (Hananuh) and clashed with armed men, who fired at them from inside the building while they were passing through the area. They shelled the building, killed four Muslim Brotherhood members and confiscated their weapons.

The body of a special squad soldier who had been shot dead was found on ('Izazah-Fraym) road.

A Syrian riding in a blue 1981 Peugeot and carrying 200 kg of TNT, which he was planning to detonate in one of Allepo's populous streets, has been arrested. The Syrian regime has accused the Iraqi regime of being behind this incident.

Military concentrations are increasing considerably on the Syrian-Iraqi border north of Allepo, near Al-Hasakah. All foreigners in Allepo are evacuating their families from the city.

The search for Muslim Brotherhood members is continuing. The townships of Muhradah and (Al-Qaylabiyah), west of Hamah, have been surrounded for 2 days in the search for gunmen who escaped from the city.

GDR PEOPLE'S CHAMBER DELEGATION ARRIVES 17 APRIL

JN171420 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] A GDR People's Chamber delegation led by Horst Sindermann, member of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany Central Committee Politburo and president of the People's Chamber, arrived here at 1000 today on a 4-day visit to Syria at the invitation of People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi.

The People's Assembly speaker welcomed Sindermann at the airport, lauding his militant stands. He added: The GDR delegation's visit to Syria comes at a time when we are celebrating our national day, which marks the evacuation of the foreign armies from our country. It is a pleasant and good opportunity to meet with close friends with whom we enjoy strong ties of friendship, cooperation and struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

The People's Assembly speaker asserted that the U.S. acts of aggression, be they in Europe or in the Middle East, are aimed at exploiting and subjugating the people and plundering their wealth as well as at striking at the forces of freedom and progress in these regions. He expressed confidence that the two countries' joint struggle, in cooperation with all forces of freedom and progress in the world and with the socialist bloc countries led by the Soviet Union, will be crowned with success.

Comrade az-Zu'bi asserted that the Syrian people, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, are determined to forge ahead in their struggle until victory and liberation have been attained and the unified socialist society is built. He expressed confidence that the visit of the friendly GDR delegation will give momentum to further developing and consolidating relations between the two friendly countries.

On his part, Horst Sindermann expressed his pleasure and that of his delegation at visiting Syria at a time when the Syrian people are celebrating their national day. He pointed out the importance of the visits exchanged between the two friendly countries on various levels, adding that the two countries must intensify their cooperation to confront imperialist and Zionist challenges and plots. Alluding to Syria's struggle under President Hafiz al-Asad, Sindermann said: We realize the size of the grave burdens being shouldered by Syria at this particular stage, adding that Syria will eventually be victorious. He asserted that the GDR delegation's visit to Syria will undoubtedly strengthen ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. It will be a fruitful and successful visit in the interest of the two friendly peoples, he concluded.

Sindermann Confers With Al-Asad

JN182051 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Talks were held at 1600 today between the Syrian People's Assembly delegation under Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi and the GDR People's Chamber delegation under Chamber President Horst Sindermann. The two sides reviewed relations between the two friendly countries, especially in the parliamentary field. They also reviewed the Arab situation, imperialist-Zionist plots against the Arab nation and the international situation in light of the current circumstances.

During the meeting, Az-Zu'bi explained the assembly's role in the field of legislation and people's supervision. He spoke to the GDR delegation about the groups represented in the assembly within the progressive national front, and noted the close cooperation between legislative and executive authorities. He also spoke about the activities of the assembly on the Arab and international levels through the Arab Parliamentary Union, the positive resolutions this union has taken against U.S. interests in the Arab region and its other political resolutions. He explained the assembly's activities within the IPU, and the coordination of stands with socialist states and the forces of liberation in the world within the IPU meetings. He elaborated on Syria's revolutionary achievements in the various economic, social and political fields, particularly since the corrective movement led by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad.

Az-Zu'bi then reviewed the plots against Syria by the U.S. imperialism and its agents in the region. He explained the Iraqi regime's role of sabotage, the role of reactionary forces and their use of the agent Muslim Brotherhood gang to carry out this role as manifested by the media, which shows the criminals and their sabotage tools such as weapons and mined cars. Az-Zu'bi said the closure of the border [with Iraq] was a natural result of the Iraqi regime's criminal and conspiratorial acts against Syria.

Az-Zu'bi praised the attitude of socialist states, headed by the USSR, toward Arab causes. He praised the existing relations of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the GDR and stressed the need for further strengthening and developing these relations in the interest of the two friendly peoples.

The GDR People's Chamber president then spoke asserting his country's continued support for just Arab causes. He noted that the Zionist entity's decision to annex the occupied Golan Heights is null and void and counter to international norms and laws. He denounced Israel's arbitrary measures in both the Golan and the occupied Arab territories of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, particularly the recent aggression against the holy places in occupied Jerusalem. He condemned the continued Zionist threats and aggression against Lebanon. He also condemned U.S. interference in the Arab region and in other regions of the world -- especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America -- the deployment of nuclear missiles in Europe and the U.S. administration's threats to launch a nuclear war.

Sindermann pointed out that the Iraqi-Iranian war serves only the U.S.-Zionist policy. This war, he said, is against the interests of the Arab nation and the Iranian revolution, which has ended the rule of the shah -- who was an ally and a pillar of U.S. imperialism and Zionism in the Middle East.

Concluding, Sindermann praised Syria's courageous and heroic role under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad both on the level of Syria's rapid development in various fields and on the level of confronting the U.S. imperialist, Zionist and reactionary plots, which are aimed not only against Syria but against all forces of progress and freedom in the Arab region and the world.

Meets With Al-Ahmar

JN191540 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1415 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Damascus, 19 Apr (SANA) -- The GDR has reaffirmed its complete solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people in regaining their usurped national rights, liberating the occupied Arab territories and establishing an independent Palestinian state. This came during a meeting today between 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and Horst Sindermann, president of the GDR People's Chamber, and his delegation currently visiting Syria.

Sindermann denounced the Zionist entity's decision to annex the occupied Arab territories and expressed his faith in the victory of the Arab cause and in the establishment of a just peace in the region. Sindermann expressed appreciation for the stand of the Arab people in the occupied Arab territories of the Golan and the West Bank.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the existing cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

Comrade al-Ahmar stressed that U.S. imperialism and Zionism are trying to dominate the Arab nation and occupy more Arab territories, the latest being the annexation of the occupied Syrian Golan Heights. Comrade al-Ahmar referred to the treasonous Camp David policy and the military bases the United States has secured in several countries in the region. He said U.S. imperialism incited its agent Saddam Husayn to impose a war on Iran, which is exhausting both Iraqi and Iranian resources. He said it has also instigated its organs in the region, headed by the Muslim Brotherhood gang, to weaken Syria's stand and denied the rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

Meets With Al-Kasm

JN191818 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1800 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Damascus, 19 Apr (SANA) -- Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm received here today Horst Sindermann, president of the GDR People's Chamber, and the delegation accompanying him.

Dr al-Kasm underlined the importance of the continued meetings between officials of the two friendly countries on the various state and parliamentary levels. He noted that this will further entrench bilateral economic and political cooperation.

Sindermann expressed his happiness at visiting Syria and meeting with officials here. Sindermann also expressed his appreciation of Syria's large role in confronting imperialist schemes. He added that the imperialists have expansionist schemes everywhere and that they are employing all political, economic and military means to serve these schemes. Sindermann asserted that the march of friendship and cooperation between Syria and the GDR, which was established by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Erich Honecker, constitutes strong pillars for the joint struggle against international imperialism's plots. Sindermann praised the economic and social accomplishments in Syria.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN191925 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Horst Sindermann, president of the GDR's People's Chamber, at 1430 today. The meeting was attended by Mahmud az-Zu'bi, speaker of the People's Assembly, and the GDR ambassador in Damascus.

Sindermann conveyed greetings to President Hafiz al-Asad from GDR President Erich Honecker. They discussed bilateral relations of friendship and cooperation, the international situation and developments in the region. Sindermann voiced his country's great respect for Syria's policy and role in the region and in the movement of national liberation and social progress and his appreciation of President Hafiz al-Asad in his capacity as a leader of the Arab struggle against imperialist and Zionist schemes. Sindermann reasserted that the GDR stands alongside Syria's valiant confrontation of the plots of agent reaction and the designs of imperialism and Zionism.

President Hafiz al-Asad expressed thanks to President Honecker for his greetings and asked Sindermann to convey his greetings and best wishes to Comrade Honecker. President Hafiz al-Asad expressed his appreciation of the GDR's support for Syria and the Arab nation. President Hafiz al-Asad asserted that Syria will continue to struggle to end aggression and will also continue to struggle against all enemies and plots aimed against the Arab nation and the Palestinian cause, relying on the masses of our nation and the support of our friends in the world.

Sindermann Press Conference

JN192058 Damascus SANA in Arabic 2030 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Damascus, 19 Apr (SANA) -- Horst Sindermann, president of the GDR's People's Chamber, held a press conference at SANA's main office at 1800 today. It was attended by representatives of Arab international and news agencies in Damascus.

Sindermann appraised Syria's bold national and progressive role under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad and its confrontation of U.S. imperialism, Zionism and agent reaction. Hr reconfirmed his country's absolute support for Syria's just struggle and honorable battle against the imperialists and reactionaries and stressed that Syria is the real edifice facing the enemies of the peoples in the Middle East. Sindermann said his meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad was fruitful and that they exchanged views on various issues of common interest. These views, he added, were identical regarding the issues discussed.

Sindermann reiterated his country's condemnation of Israel's aggressive and expansionist policies in the occupied Arab territories and its repressive and terrorist measures against Arab citizens and the holy places. He condemned aggressive U.S. imperialist policy in the Middle East as well as in other areas, such as Africa and Latin America. He said this policy is based on oppressing people, imposing U.S. hegemony on them and attempting to loot their national resources.

Sindermann denounced the suspicious settlements some Western countries are trying to impose on the region. He stressed that the just and durable settlement for the region is to implement UN resolutions in this regard.

Regarding the Iraqi-Iranian war, Sindermann stressed that this war is in the interest of neither the Iraqi nor the Iranian peoples, but in the interest of U.S. imperialism and Israel. He praised the Iranian revolution, describing it as a popular upheaval that broke the back of U.S. imperialism and destroyed one of its aggressive strongholds in the region.

Sindermann also stressed that his talks with party and government officials in Syria were fruitful and constructive and that he is returning to the GDR with good impressions. He said the exchange of visits between the two friendly countries at all levels should strengthen and consolidate ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries and parties.

Sindermann said: We came to Syria at a time when its people are struggling bravely and courageously on all fronts under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad. We are confident this struggle will culminate in victory.

Sindermann also praised the Palestinian Arab people's struggle and affirmed his country's support for this struggle. He referred in this respect to upgrading diplomatic representation between the GDR and the PLO to embassy level.

He denounced the policy of the U.S. administration, led by Ronald Reagan, in the Middle East and the world, describing it as a policy of arrogance, hegemony and an attempt to impose U.S. control. He noted that this policy is doomed to failure.

He said the United States is currently concentrating its conspiracies against steadfast Arab countries, which are carrying out a just and honorable struggle to regain rights that have been acknowledged by the United Nations. He added that these conspiracies will founder against the rock of Arab steadfastness and confrontation. He said the liberated city of Al-Qunatirah is a living example of the Syrian people's courageous struggle and a witness to Israel's barbarism and disregard of basic humanitarian principles.

Sindermann praised the constructive cooperation that exists between Syria and the GDR and stressed the need for strengthening this cooperation, particularly in the technical, economic and technological spheres, to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples.

BA'TH DELEGATION RETURNS FROM ADEN 16 APRIL

JN161949 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Excerpt] The Ba'th Party delegation headed by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, returned to Damascus today at the conclusion of its visit to the PDRY.

DAMASCUS VERSION OF YSP-BA'TH COMMUNIQUE

JN161320 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Text] The YSP has reaffirmed the PDRY's siding and full solidarity with Syria in its confrontation with internal and external plots and the plotting being perpetrated by the hostile forces, particularly the Muslim Brotherhood, which is supported by imperialism, Zionism and Arab reactionaries.

In a statement issued today at the end of the 9-16 April visit to the PDRY by the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party delegation led by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, party assistant secretary general, the YSP lauded the Syrian citizens' steadfastness in the occupied Golan Heights and their struggle against the decision of annexation and continued occupation.

On its part the Ba'th Party delegation asserted Syria's support for the PDRY in its confrontation with imperialist and reactionary plots and for its struggle to deepen its economic, political, social and cultural transformations and to attain Yemeni unity as a step toward achieving democratic Arab unity.

The two parties condemned Zionist enemy measures of violating the Al-Aqsa Mosque, dismissing patriotic mayors in the West Bank and imposing its suspect and agent elements there. The two sides lauded the struggle of the Palestinian masses, who are firmly confronting the autonomy plans and the so-called civil administration through their continuing uprising.

The two sides reiterated their joint conviction that consolidating Syria's steadfastness, the mainstay of Arab steadfastness, in the face of imperialist designs and their principal base -- the Zionist entity -- giving every means of assistance to it and enhancing its militant alliance with the Palestinian resistance, as well as developing Syria's military and economic potential, will greatly strengthen the Arab struggle against the U.S.-Zionist onslaught, liberate all occupied Arab territories and achieve the phased strategic program of the Palestinian revolution.

The two sides condemned the imperialist military presence in the Arab Gulf and the Red and Mediterranean Seas, the establishment of bases and giving of military facilities to U.S. imperialism in Egypt, Sudan, Somalia, Oman, Morocco and other Arab states. They also condemned the multinational force in Sinai, which reflects de facto participation of Western Europe in the Camp David accords.

The two sides asserted that the Iraqi-Iranian war contradicts the real interests of the two peoples and serves only imperialist and Zionist designs, which aim at diverting the Arabs and the world from the principal conflict between the Arab nation and its liberation movement on the one hand and U.S. imperialism and the Zionist enemy on the other.

The two parties expressed support for the Arab people's struggle in Oman, led by the PFLO, to establish a democratic, national and progressive regime. They also expressed support for the struggle of the Saharan people, led by the Polisario.

The two sides expressed satisfaction over the qualitative development in the two countries' relations of friendship with the Soviet Union -- relations serving the interests of the Arab nation and its just issues. They asserted that principled strategic relations with the socialist bloc, led by the Soviet Union, is a main condition for firmly confronting the imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

The two parties expressed their support for Afghanistan in its struggle for the sake of its national independence and sovereignty and to halt imperialist-reactionary interference in its domestic affairs.

The two sides also expressed support for the Iranian revolution and its course, which is hostile to imperialism and Zionism.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL LEAVES FOR DAKAR

JN191449 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Damascus, 19 Apr (SANA) -- Nasir Qaddur, assistant minister for foreign affairs, left Damascus today for Dakar, where he will attend the Arab-African joint cooperation committee meeting that beings tomorrow.

'ALI HOPEFUL ABOUT SETTLEMENT OF PROBLEMS

TA191409 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said that almost all differences of opinion with Israel will be settled. He was speaking with our correspondent Amaron Barne'a before leaving for another meeting with the prime minister.

Meets Begin

TA191756 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1737 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] A few minutes ago the second meeting in Jerusalem today ended between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali. Our correspondent on Arab affairs has returned from the prime minister's residence, where the meeting was held.

[Aharon Barne'a -- live] Well, as stated, a few minutes ago the second meeting ended -- this was a meeting that was longer than the first one, at noon -- the meeting lasted for about 1 hour and 15 minutes with a short break in the middle for a meeting between the prime minister and Knesset members from the Herut faction. After that meeting, Egyptian Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali went out to the journalists who had been standing there for more than an hour waiting and said the following:

[Begin 'Ali recording -- in English] As a result of this round of talks, new ideas emerged to bridge the gap that exists between the two parties' points of views. The following days will witness, hopefully, a happy conclusion in the direction of solving the pending issues. We in Egypt are fully confident that the 25 April will give our bilateral relations a new impetus. [end recording]

[Barne'a] The talks involved all issues connected with the peace process and relations between the two countries, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said, as a result of this round of talks new ideas emerged to bridge the gap between the two parties; in the following days, the Egyptian foreign minister said, hopefully the following days will witness a happy conclusion of the pending issues. We in Egypt, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said, are confident that the 25 April will be a date when relations between Israel and Egypt will move onto a new track in accordance with the Camp David agreements, in accordance with the peace treaty between Israel and Egypt, to which Egypt, for its part, is committed. At the end of his remarks 'Ali announced that he was carrying with him a letter from Prime Minister Menahem Begin to President Mubarak; this is a letter of reply to the letter prime minister received from President Mubarak, which was brought by Minister Butrus Ghali last week. The Egyptian foreign minister, and with him the deputy foreign minister, Dr Butrus Ghali, and the senior team of advisers, spent a long time today in Israel; they are returning to Egypt and they will report to President Mubarak this very evening on the results of their talks. From all we have succeeded in learning, for the moment there is no conclusion on the main question discussed today, of course, that was the problem of the border demarcation at Tabah, but, as the foreign minister said, and did not go into detail, during today's talks new ideas were born and we will certainly hear the results of these new ideas within the next few days.

Begin Reported Pleased

TA191812 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali is now leaving in order to return to Egypt, with a message in his pocket from the prime minister to the president of Egypt, a reply to the message President Mubarak sent to Menahem Begin last week.

The exchanges of letters between the prime minister and President Mubarak will permit the completion of the withdrawal on time. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports the pair will point out, in their letters, the renewed adherence of Israel and Egypt to the Camp David agreements and the application of autonomy to Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent reports that Likud Knesset members who met with the prime minister this evening formed the impression that Mr Begin is pleased with the conclusions achieved in the deliberations with Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali and he does not intend to suspend the final withdrawal from Sinai.

'Ali Departs

TA191912 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 19 Apr -- Egyptian Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali completed his short visit to Israel at 1800 this evening and flew back to Cairo, together with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali and Israeli Ambassador to Cairo Mr Moshe Sason. Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon took leave of the Egyptian delegation at Ben-Gurion Airport. No announcement was issued when the delegation left at the end of a long day of deliberations with the prime minister, the foreign minister and the defense minister in an attempt to solve the problems remaining before Israel completes the Sinai withdrawal.

EGYPT'S INTELLIGENCE CHIEF MEETS IDF OFFICERS

TA191053 Jerusalem POST in English 19 Apr 82 p 1

[Text] Tel Aviv -- Senior IDF officers and an aide to Prime Minister Menahem Begin yesterday were unable to say whether Egypt had corrected its violations of the peace agreement in Sinai. A reconnaissance plane was due to photograph the area yesterday, but the results were not disclosed. The flight was requested after Israel complained that Egypt had deployed more units and set up more fortifications in certain areas of Sinai than those permitted under the peace agreement. Meanwhile an Egyptian source here said yesterday he believed the head of his country's military intelligence, identified only as General 'Abdallah, was still in Israel. The general, who arrived here on Friday, reportedly met the head of the IDF intelligence branch Aluf [Maj Gen] Yehoshu'a Sagi and other senior officers.

SENIOR PLO OFFICIAL ADMITS SINAI ARMS SMUGGLING

TA191059 Jerusalem POST in English 19 Apr 82 p 1

[Text] A senior PLO official yesterday confirmed Israeli charges that his organization was smuggling arms from Egyptian-controlled Sinai to its members in Gaza. In an interview published in the latest edition of the Beirut English-language weekly MONDAY MORNING, PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat's top political aide, Hani al-Hasan, denied, however, that this was with Egypt's "connivance," as claimed by Israel. Al-Hasan also warned that the PLO would be stepping up its operations against Israeli targets "to match the political escalation and civil disobedience" in the West Bank and Gaza. He stressed, however, that such operations would not be mounted across the Lebanese border, in keeping with the PLO's interpretation of the cease-fire worked out in south Lebanon last July. Israel claims that PLO action across any border violates the cease-fire.

KAKH MOVEMENT ACTIVISTS THREATEN SUICIDE IN YAMIT

TA182041 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Report by Yig'al Goren -- videotaped]

[Excerpts] Following reports which reached the IDF concerning the possibility of acts of suicide and other extremist acts during the evacuation of Yamit, the chief IDF rabbi, Maj Gen Gad Navon and the head of the Merkaz Harav Yeshiva in Jerusalem, Rabbi Avraham Shapira, arrived by helicopter this morning at the evacuation forces' headquarters. The purpose of their visit was to convince the public in Yamit to refrain from irregular acts during the evacuation. The two met with the commander of the Southern Command, who explained to them the situation in the area on the eve of the evacuation of the withdrawal opponents. After the meeting with the major general, the rabbis went to the town of Yamit.

The public threat to commit suicide was made today at the bomb shelter where youths belonging to Rabbi Kahane's Kakh Movement have been holding out for several months. After the incident with IDF soldiers at the end of last week the youths, the number is not known, barricaded themselves in the stronghold and even prevented their friends from entering. Talks with them were conducted via the bombshelter air vents and they transmitted the message that they had decided to commit suicide if the evacuation began.

[An unknown Kakh activist] The message is that if the evacuation of Yamit is begun one of the persons inside will commit suicide, and afterwards, at regular intervals, another one will take his life. If an attempt is made to break into the shelter they will all commit suicide together, but for one, who will open fire on anyone trying to get in.

[Goren] Do you take this threat seriously?

[Unknown Kakh activist] Very.

[Question] Why?

[Answer] Why? The people are firmly decided, they are fairly young, and I hope that they will not, but --

[Question] Is this their final decision, as far as you know?

[Answer] I hope someone will succeed in changing it. I hope.

[Goren] While a group of women close to those ensconced in the shelter read psalms and wailed, the chief IDF rabbi and the head of the Merkaz Harav Yeshiva, who has great influence over the members of the movement to halt the withdrawal, arrived. Through the air vents the rabbis tried to persuade those in the shelter to cancel their extreme decision. But it seems that they did not get any real answers. Shortly after the rabbis left Yamit in the helicopter which had been put at their disposal. Those entrenched in the shelter made another announcement saying that they had not gone back on their decision.

Rabbi Kahana To Intercede

TA200407 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0406 GMT 20 Apr 82

[Text] The Yamit District evacuation will be stopped for one day today due to the Holocaust memorial ceremonies. Last night the commander of the Southern Command released an announcement stating that the evacuation of the agricultural settlements has almost ended without the settlers' resistance. Many buses carrying dozens of the Movement To Stop the Sinai Withdrawal members gathered on the borders of the Yamit District last night.

Our correspondents reported that many are trying to infiltrate into the district despite the ban but few of them have apparently managed to do so. In the meantime, contact has been made with Rabbi Kahana in the United States and he was going to leave for Israel last night in order to meet with his [Kakh Movement] followers in Yamit and persuade them not to commit suicide. Mr Kahana was promised he will not be detained upon arriving in Israel.

MINISTER ABU-HATZERA CONVICTED ON 3 CHARGES

TA191221 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Labor, Social Welfare and Immigrant Absorption Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzera today was convicted on three of six charges and was acquitted on three others. His sentence will be handed down in 2 days after the testimony of character witnesses is heard. He was convicted of breaching confidence, plotting to carry out a crime, and stealing while holding an administrative position. The maximum punishment is 7 years in prison. The minister was acquitted of the first three charges for lack of sufficient evidence or due to time limitations. The charges were: stealing from the Interior Ministry, stealing and committing a fraud in Ramla municipality.

Moshe Gabay, the minister's aide, was also acquitted of the first three charges and also of the sixth charge dealing with stealing by an administrator. However, he was convicted of two charges dealing with breach of confidence and with plotting to commit a crime.

The verdict by Justice Victoria Ostrovsky-Kohen is full of harsh remarks on Aharon Abu-Hatzera's conduct and on the way he managed the Abu-Hatzera fund. She said Abu-Hatzera persisted in maintaining contacts with the fund even though he claimed he had severed them after resigning from the post of fund manager; he greatly misued public funds; when questioned by police, he did not tell the truth about the appeal to the Interior Ministry for money; in managing the fund both defendants behaved as though it was their own private property; and the two defendants provided a serious, clear example of breaching the public's faith.

The judge further stated that dishonesty and lack of sincerity were reflected in the remarks Abu-Hatzera made during a discussion of the fund's affairs conducted at the Ramla Municipal Council. He lied, breached the confidence of the municipal council and caused harm to the public which trusted him.

Justice Ostrovsky-Kohen also criticized Interior Minister Yosef Burg for refusing to testify before the court, saying that there is not telling what the interior minister's considerations were in granting money to the fund. If he had been interrogated, some questions demanding clarifications would surely have cropped up.

Hundreds of people had been crowding around the Tel Aviv District Court gates since morning. As the first acquittal was read out, a shout of glee could be heard. But then, when the judge announced the convictions, a brawl erupted. Abu-Hatzera's supporters constantly recited the Psalms. An ITIM correspondent reports that as the court gates opened after about 3 hours, a demonstration was organized and libelous remarks were made against the judge. The police exercised restraint in restoring order. Abu-Hatzera was welcomed by his sympathizers with shouts of encouragement. He made but a few remrks and only called on the people to behave well toward the police and have faith in justice in Israel. The prosecutor, Central District attorney Sara Sirota, and her aides, were forced to spend a long hour in the hall, unable to leave because of the people's anger.

Conviction Implications

TA191300 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] According to the present formulation of the government's Basic Law, Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzera's criminal conviction does not necessarily entail the end of his service in the Cabinet. In theory he can continue serving as a minister even if he is sentenced to a long imprisonment. If the minister is sentenced to a jail term of more than 1 year the Knesset will be able to terminate his post as a Knesset member. In such a situation, too, he will still be able to continue to serve as minister without being a Knesset member. The law stipulates that a minister's service is terminated only if he voluntarily resigns from the Knesset or if the prime minister dismisses him. The prime minister does not have to dismiss him because of a criminal conviction.

Will Resign Cabinet Post

TA200931 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Apr 82

[Text] Labor and Social Welfare Minister Aharon Abu-Hatzera wants to resign his Cabinet post. He has just informed the prime minister of his intention to do so. Following the meeting he told our correspondent, Razi Barqay, that this is his personal stand and he will have to submit it to officials of his party, TAMI, for approval. However, he believes he will be able to convince his colleagues that he should resign from the Cabinet. In answer to a question by our correspondent, the minister said he was speaking of resignation from the Cabinet but not from the Knesset. Abu-Hatzera refused to comment on claims by his supporters that the issue arises against an ethnic background. He also refused to say whether he thinks TAMI should remain in the coalition. Abu-Hatzera expressed confidence that the appeal he will submit to the Supreme Court will prove his innocence and he will be acquitted.

NORWEGIAN DEFENSE MINISTER MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT

TA190432 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 2025 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 18 Apr -- Norwegian Defense Minister Anders Sjaastad arrived this evening for an official visit in Israel. He will be received with a full military ceremony at the defense minister's office in Tel Aviv tomorrow morning. The guest will stay in Israel for 4 days and will also meet Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, the chief of staff and other personages.

The ITIM correspondent at the airport learned about the arrival of the Norwegian defense minister from Norwegian Embassy staffers after the Defense Ministry announced he was going to arrive from Athens at 2015, while in fact he arrived from Cyprus about an hour earlier. According to Norwegian Embassy officials the guest was received by Defense Ministry Director General Avraham Ben-Yosef. Mr Sjaastad is visiting Israel within the framework of a visit to Norwegian soldiers serving with UN forces in the region, he will tour IDF camps, the military and aircraft industries, Jerusalem and the Good Fence.

Meets Sharon

TA191281 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Norwegian Defense Minister Anders Sjaastad conferred this morning with Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon for 90 minutes. In the course of the talk, the defense minister reviewed for his Norwegian guest Israel's security problems and the power balance in the region. The Norwegian defense minister told our correspondent, Tzahi Noga, that he arrived here in order to form an impression on the situation in Lebanon and regional problems.

[Begin Sjaastad recording -- in English] My purpose is to talk to Israeli authorities about points of interest, about the situation in southern Lebanon, about the situation in various... [end recording]

Norway has forces in UNIFIL, the Norwegian defense minister said, and it is important for us to form an impression as to how they operate and whether they are doing it in the best possible manner.

ONE KILLED, DOZEN INJURED IN GAZA, W. BANK

TA161620 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 16 Apr 82

[Text] One youth was killed and about 12 were injured in the Gaza Strip after a crowd attacked various IDF patrols. In the (Saja'yiah) neighborhood in Gaza, worshipers attacked an IDF patrol at the end of prayers in the mosques. The soldiers fired some shots into the air and subsequently at the legs of demonstrators. One person was killed and seven were injured. In the town of 'Abasan near Khan Yunus, rioters attacked an IDF patrol and several people were injured.

In the (Shatti) refugee camp, hundreds of people attacked an IDF patrol. The soldiers dispersed the demonstrators with teargas and rubber bullets and there were no casualties. Two inhabitants were injured in Nabulus in the course of dispersing demonstrations at the end of prayers in the mosques. A girl was injured in her apartment by a stray bullet and a local inhabitant was hit by a military jeep while a demonstration was being dispersed. Three demonstrators sustained light injuries in Al-Birch when they tried to roll burning tires toward a military barrier at the end of the prayers. A blockade was imposed on the Balatah refugee camp near Nabulus following a riot at the end of prayers. Tires were set on fire and a demonstration was also stage in Tulkarm.

HADDAD CONSIDERING RETALIATION FOR BOMB ATTEMPT

TA191327 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 19 Apr 82 p 2

[Report by correspondent in the north Menhem Horowitz]

[Text] Yesterday was the third time terrorists planted a large bomb on a central traffic artery in southern Lebanon. It was placed near the village of Bayt Lif but caused no harm. A patrol of Major Haddad's men was moving nearby but no one was injured. Last week the terrorists planted booby-trapped mines in various places around the Christian town of Marj "Uyun. In once case a Sherman tank hit a mine and two soldiers were wounded. Southern Lebanon sources said the terrorists are adopting new measures to harass the inhabitants: they penetrate through UNIFIL-controlled areas in southern Lebanon, plant mines and flee. Major Haddad's officers regard these terrorist infiltrations as clear violation of the cease-fire in southern Lebanon. Yesterday consultations were held in the Christian militia headquarters at Marj 'Uyun in anticipation of a possible retaliatory act against the terrorists.

RABIN WARNS AGAINST ALL-OUT LEBANON CONFRONTATION

TA160812 Jerusalem POST in English 16 Apr 82 p 5

[Report on interview with former Prime Minister Yitzhag Rabin by correspondent Mark Segal -- date and place not given]

[Text] Calling for a strengthening of the cease-fire along the Lebanese border, former Premier Yitzhaq Rabin has come out firmly against any IDF operation across the frontier for political ends. He would, however, seek massive retaliation against terrorist bases inside Lebanon should the Palestinians break the 1981 cease-fire agreement and renew shelling of Israel's border towns and villages.

He does not believe the PLO will keep the cease-fire for long; when they make life difficult for the north, the the IDF should go in and wipe out their artillery batteries, ensuring that a beefed-up UNIFIL force takes control of the territory before retiring back into Israel.

Rabin was one of three Labour leaders called in by Premier Menahem Begin for consultations last week on the security situation. In a subsequent interview with the Jerusalem POST in his Tel Aviv Qirya office, the former prime minister spelled out his ideas on fighting the terrorist organizations. "It is impossible to solve the Palestinian problem by military means," he said. The political resolution of the problem is to be found in the Camp David framework agreement, which contains a broad range of possibilities. "Secondly, it is impossible, under the given political pressures facing Israel, to set as an aim the destruction of the PLO in Lebanon by military means. Any attempt to set such a target for the IDF is basically wrong.

In Rabin's view, Israel must set its sights on two aims: First, to prevent terrorist infiltration from Lebanon by land, sea or air; second, to ensure that there is never a repetition of the mini-war of attrition conducted by the PLO last year. These two aims must be attained by defensive and offensive measures.

Rabin recalled the U.S. definition of a breach of the cease-fire as "any action originating in Lebanon against a target in Israel." He does not believe that Israel can tolerate terrorist provocations, even if they do not constitute a violation of the cease-fire as the U.S. sees it. "But as long as the cease-fire is kept and as long as no terrorist acts have been carried out inside Israel, we must honour the agreement," he declared. The worst that the terrorist forces could do would be to renew the policy of harassment through shelling which they pursued in 1981, albeit with a much greater volume of fire. While not wishing to seem to be minimalizing the gravity of their acts of infiltration, he stressed that "not every breach of the cease-fire agreement -- and there have been many of them -- should oblige Israel automatically to embark on a large-scale military operation. We should seek out a range of reactions, a range of military responses to deal with the Lebanese-based terrorists. But they should not be of the kind that would break the cease-fire and spark an all-out confrontation along the borders.

"Hence the current public debate is not over whether there were breaches of the cease-fire agreement, but over whether they should bring Israel to adopt such a course as might bring down the entire structure of the cease-fire that was so carefully put together." Rabin thinks it likely that the PLO will keep the agreement until the Sinai withdrawal has been completed. "We can certainly exist with the present arrangement for another 20 years. But I find it difficult to believe that the PLO will be able to hold on to the cease-fire for long."

If Israel were attacked it would have no other choice but to go into Lebanon and take over the Palestinian artillery sites. "Not for the purpose of staying there, but only to create a terrorist-free area." Rabin acknowledged that even such a limited operation as he envisaged was fraught with dangers and could involve a clash with part of the Syrian forces in the Lebanon. However, Israel would have no alternative, since it could not have all its northern border population living in shelters.

The former premier was characteristically tight-lipped about last week's meeting with Begin. When I asked him whether the above views had been given expression on that occasion, he said cautiously: "My position was given expression a few months back, and my views have been made clear before various national forums on various occasions." The former premier has clear views on what should be Israel's policy towards Lebanon, implicit in which are sharp criticisms of the Begin government's handling of our northern neighbor. Israel was above all to adopt a definite policy to ensure the integrity and independence of Lebanon, and to make sure that the Maronite Christians can live "with their heads high." In political terms this means enforcing the agreement reached between the Syrians and the Christian leadership in February 1976, against which the Lebanese left and the PLO rebelled, sparking off the as yet unfinished civil war.

Israel is obliged politically and morally to come to the aid of the Christians, to enable them to achieve the above aims, Rabin says. The principle that had guided Israel's governments hitherto had been to "help the Maronites to help themselves." However, Israel should do nothing to encourage its Christian friends in the illusion that they could drag this country into war, he emphasized. At the same time, the Syrians should appreciate Israel's capacity to prevent them from eliminating the Christian forces. "But a decision of that kind can only be made by Israel and cannot be left in other people's hands, particularly not those of the Christians."

He then took a swipe at a well-known government mistake, arguing that the order to shoot down the Syrian helicopters last year had provided an excuse for the Syrians to move in missiles, something they had not done during the five previous years of their involvement in Lebanon. The solution to the Lebanese problem must be a political one, involving the United States and pro-Western Arab states, and any formula they produce must provide for an independent and strong Christian entity in that troubled country.

"Any attempt by the Government of Israel to initiate a large-scale military operation with the purpose of intervening in the overall military situation in Lebanon, in other words to go to war with the aim of tipping the military balance there so as to ensure Christian control over part or the whole of Lebanon, would be a major mistake," he said gravely. "Needless to say it would be unattainable and inadvisable for this country."

Nevertheless, Rabin advocates supplying the independent Christian force with arms and training facilities and so forth. Turning to the situation in Sinai, Rabin expressed satisfaction that the threats of the anti-withdrawal movement leaders had proved so much hot air and that they had not succeeded in mobilizing the "hundreds of thousands" they spoke of.

Asked to comment on this week's call by senior Herut Cabinet ministers to postpone the withdrawal from Sinai, the former prime minister declared: "In the past few days the government has produced information concerning Egyptian breaches of the peace treaty. Undoubtedly the government must do all it can to amend them before the Sinai withdrawal deadline. At the same time, I must point out that, like many other Israelis, I was taken by surprise by these charges of such grave breaches of the peace treaty."

After a short pause Rabin continued: "It may be asked why a matter of such national importance was not raised before. After all, senior members of the Cabinet have largely been creating the impression that everything was proceeding harmoniously in the Egypt-Israel relationship. The sudden dramatic changeover (Rabin used the word mahapakh with heavy irony) in declarations by Cabinet ministers can only make one wonder." He trusts that a suitable solution of the problem of the violations will be found speedily, hoping that "the government won't permit itself to be swept around by anti-withdrawal rhetoric of the kind that dominated the remarks of senior Cabinet ministers at the convention."

Rabin expects a hardening of Egyptian positions after the withdrawal, especially on the Palestine issue.

There already were indications of this in the 11 points submitted by Egypt to the conference of non-aligned states at Kuwait, where a tough line had emerged regarding all other aspects of the peace process. After all, Rabin noted, the Camp David framework does not end with the peace treaty but envisages two other stages, the autonomy scheme and an overall settlement of the eastern border, and these will offer opportunities to Cairo to demonstrate a hard line. He doubts that there can be a swift conclusion of the autonomy agreement with Egypt and the U.S., if the past year's experience is anything to go by.

Rabin already perceives two clear changes in Mubarak's policy from that of the late Anwar as-Sadat. Firstly, Mubarak is shifting away from As-Sadat's anti-Soviet stance; this fits in with his emphasis on being active within the non-aligned bloc. However, he is not willing to forgo American military and economic aid. Rabin predicted that Mubarak would seek to bring the Soviets back into Middle East diplomatic activity.

Interrupting him, I wondered whether indeed it was possible to reach an overall settlement without the Russians. He replied immediately: "only without them. Their hostile policy towards Israel makes their exclusion mandatory. Back in 1974, there was a tacit understanding between the United States, Egypt and Israel as to a common strategic concept based on three points: that the United States would lead the peace process admist the neutralization of the Soviet Union and Europe; that Egypt and Israel would be regarded as twin corner-stones of the U.S.-led peace policy; and that the peace process would be a gradual one -- there was Kissinger's step-by-step approach and President Carter's policy which produced the Camp David agreement with its three stages. If it weren't for a years of cleaving to the joint strategic concept, it's doubtful whether we would have got so far."

The second change in Mubarak's policy involves seeking a reconciliation with other Arab leaders and not treating them as "dwarves." However, even if Mubarak should close ranks with the rest of the Arab world, Rabin doubts that he would undermine the peace treaty, although he could be expected to harden his position on the Palestinian issue.

YEDI'OT AHARONOT ANALYZES CHANCES OF WAR IN LEBANON

TA161503 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Apr 82 p 1 [weekend supplement]

[Commentary by Eytan Haber]

[Text] It is being said that sooner or later war will break out on the northern border. It is being said that it is unavoidable and so it can be expected perhaps this evening, perhaps in another week, perhaps in another 3 months. It is being said that it is definintely unavoidable. It is a fact: At least twice in the recent past the IDF was about to act inside the terrorists' state in Lebanon and, at the last minute, embarking on what appeared to be an unnecessary war filled with vain sacrifices was prevented.

What is needed today in order to trigger a war is a government decision. The prime minister told the midday press in interviews published this week that the government has not decided. What then? Mr Begin, like many others, knows that the distance between a government decision and putting it into operation by the IDF is not specially great. In the following lines I have tried to collect in brief the various evaluations recently expressed on this matter: why war will break out -- and why not, why we should act -- and why this must not happen.

Why There Will Be War

-- Because Arik Sharon wants it. He came to the Ministry of Defense with a clear concept about Lebanon. He formulated it even before he assumed his current post and now he is trying to actualize it on the date that appears to him to be most suitable.

Sharon thinks that there is no point in small wars and partial solutions. In his opinion, through one large war in Lebanon it is possible to gain several objectives sought by Israel: the elimination or almost complete elimination of the PLO's military infrastructure, the expulsion of the Syrian Army from Lebanese territory, the neutralization of Soviet influence and the establishment of an administration headed by the Christians who lean toward Israel. A new administration in Beirut headed by Bashir Jumayyil could sign a peace treaty with the State of Israel.

-- Because Arik Sharon exerts far more influence in the government today than in the past, Sharon to a great extent dictates the government's moves. He is in a strong position of power because everyone wants him to remain in his current position at least up to the final evacuation of the Yamit District. Today he holds the minister of finance in a stranglehold because of the need for appreciable cuts in the defense budget; he is taking over an important part of the tasks and authority of the foreign minister and creating an atmosphere for the prime minister whereby nothing is possible without his help. He has little regard for the other ministers.

-- Because war is in fact unavoidable and it will break out, whether we want it or not. The cease-fire from July 1981 in fact bound both sides: the terrorists know that one single Katyusha barrage on Qiryat Shemona will bring the IDF into Lebanon, and the IDF cannot act with "little blows" against terrorist concentrations and weapons in Lebanon. Heavy pressure has been created on both sides, and one of them will break the cease-fire first. Apologies for mistakes are inconceivable.

-- Because the prime minister has in fact decided on the timing of the war. The remarks by Prime Minister Menahem Begin about the Syrian missiles ("take care, Al-Asad"), the terrorist barrages ("not one Katyusha will fall"), the actions against the PLO ("until the last one of them is destroyed") and especially the public announcement that if even one Israeli is killed by the PLO, Israel will at once go into action, in fact determined the almost exact timing. Now all that is needed is for an Arab lunatic, for example a youth from Nabulus, to act like the Jewish Alan Goodman in Al-Awsa and place a murderous charge in a bus in Netanya.

-- Because the terrorists are accumulating weapons and getting organized rapidly and it is they who will take the initiative and open fire first. Since the cease-fire began in July 1981, the terrorists have doubled their amount of 130-mm cannons whose effective range is about 27 kilometers and which fired at and hit the northern settlements. They now have about 100 cannons. They also have about 200 other artillery pieces and mortars. They have also doubled the number of their Katyushas from 40 to 80, tanks, armored personnel carriers, halftracks, antiaircraft shoulder missiles, and SA-9 antiaircraft missiles. In southern Lebanon alone there are now about 5,000 terrorists.

-- Because the international situation today is convenient for war and it will not be so convenient in the near future. We are holding the world by the throat for only another 2 weeks, until after the final Sinai withdrawal on 25 April. Because in any case we are sentenced to fight, it is worth this happening when the Western world is up to its neck in its economic problems, millions of unemployed, Britain is driving the world insane with the fight over the Falkalnd Islands, Egypt will not move a finger until after the evacuation -- and perhaps a test should be set for it: Will they join a war against the IDF or not?

Why There Will Not Be A War

-- Because Arik Sharon is mistaken, as he has been mistaken to date. His conception about Lebanon has no head, arms and legs, as happened with his other plans since he became defense minister: the memorandum of understanding with the United States; the renewal of relations with Africa; the appointment of Arye Ganger; the reorganization of the Defense Ministry; the liberalization in the administered territories.

In contrast to what Sharon thinks, it is too late today to eliminate the PLO and there is no military solution to the Palestinian problem and not only because of political pressures. The political solution to this matter was put forward by the State of Israel and it is included in the Camp David agreements that were signed by Menahem Begin. Nor will the superpowers permit the IDF to hold on to Lebanese territory for any length of time and even less will they permit puppet governments headed by Bashir Jumayyil to hold the reins of power in Lebanon.

-- Because perhaps for the first time in the history of the State of Israel there is no national agreement about going to war. It is true that on the eve of the Sinai campaign in 1956 the leaders of MAPAM had some reservations about the joint campaign with Britain and France, but they were overlooked. Today the feeling among the general public, not only civilians, is that it is not true that "there is no alternative," on the contrary, there is an alternative.

-- Because Arik Sharon, with all due respect, does not have complete control over the government's actions. It is true that he is nibbling at the share of the foreign minister and pushing pins into the finance minister and weaving spells around the prime minister, but actually the ministers whom he sees as inconsiderable, such as Shostak and Tzipori and Burg, are throwing monkey wrenches into the works of his war machine. The unimportant ministers are aware of the fact that there is no national agreement in the nation and they also read such sentences as those that appeared in the press this week: "Future bereaved mothers, prepare your tears." The prime minister, too, is not so enthusiastic about the idea of messing up our achievement in the field of peace for the sake of one small war. There are those who say that last time he sent the head of the IDF intelligence branch to the United States and when he invited the leader of the opposition for a talk he did so in order to invite pressure on himself and turn Sharon down elegantly.

-- Because going to war would be interpreted by international public opinion as a deliberate violation of the cease-fire agreement. It is true that terrorists of all sorts have more than once violated the cease-fire recently, but the world demands other standards from the State of Israel.

-- Because despite all the attempts to make a noise about shooting incidents and terrorists, Israel has never had such a quiet period in the field of hostile activity, at least not over the last 5 years. According to the IDF spokesman's notes, since 24 July 1981, the day the cease-fire became valid and up to 2 days ago, there have been 100 hostile actions, beginning with small arms fire, mines, explosive devices and extending to knife stabbings. In the same period 1 year ago there were 183 such incidents, 2 years ago 197 incidents, 3 years ago 160 incidents, 4 years ago 233 hostile actions and 5 years ago, when the civil war in Lebanon was at its peak, there were 77 hostile actions.

-- Because a war in Lebanon would put the IDF in jeopardy of a possible war with the Syrian Army, both in Lebanon and on the Golan Heights. The Syrian Army wants a fight today. It is armed and equipped with the most modern weapons, including about 1,000 T-72 tanks. Any war with the Syrian Army would involve many sacrifices, hundreds of fatalities.

-- Because a war with Lebanon and Syria, especially after the Sinai evacuation, could certainly bring in its wake political moves whose result would be the need to abandon the Golan Heights, as we did the Sinai Peninsula.

-- Because it could certainly happen that such a war would push King Husayn, for his own reasons, into joining the battles and trying to act in Judea or Samaria, or at least carrying out some sort of kidnapping operation in the Jericho area, for example. This is not impossible. The Jordanian Army today is better armed and equipped than ever before.

CHADIAN FOREIGN MINISTER REQUESTS OAU MEETING

AB200930 Paris AFP in English 0916 GMT 20 Apr 82

[Text] Nairobi, 20 April (AFP) -- Chad has asked the OAU to convene as quickly as possible a special meeting of OAU heads of state to put an end to "beating about the bush" over Chad, Chadian Foreign Minister Acyl Ahmat told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE today.

"OAU military support is necessary so that peace can return to Chad," said Mr Acyl, who met with OAU President Daniel arap Moi here yesterday.

"Chad needs constant and indefectible support" from the OAU, Mr Acyl said before leaving Kenya for Lagos where he is to meet with Nigerian President Shehu Shagari.

The OAU's Permanent Committee, which met here in February, set June 30 as the date for the end of the mandate of the OAU's peace-keeping force in Chad. Contingents from Zaire, Nigeria and Senegal are in the force. The committee also called for the organisation of elections in Chad before the troops are withdrawn, but the Chadian Transitional Government of President Goukouni Oueddei has rejected the call.

"We do not wish for a polemic at this time between the OAU and Chad," the foreign minister said.

The OAU president asked Ndjamena to ask the United Nations for aid for the peace-keeping force. This has been done, Mr Acyl said.

He said that the Chadian Government had asked Mr. Moi to call the special summit. "He will convoke it if he judges such a summit necessary," the foreign minister said, indicating that he did not receive a definitive response about the request from Mr. Moi.

Mr. Acyl said that Mr. Goukouni would attend such a summit and "will undoubtedly have proposals to make about the current problems in Chad."

Mr. Acyl reaffirmed that his government wants peace in his war-torn country and elections to be held "as quickly as possible. It is the wish of all Chadians to have an elected government," he said.

He also denied the existence of an "air bridge" between Algiers and Bouguia, north of the Chadian capital, and said that any journalist who wanted to verify the denial was welcome to go and see for himself that no such link exists.

Chad's rebel FAN had said that Algerians were sending troops and military supplies via the "air bridge". Algeria quickly denied the charge. Algeria's military participation in Chad is limited to observers for the peace-keeping force, Mr. Acyl said.

IPU EXPELS GHANA, OTHERS; CAPE VERDE REJOINS

AB181311 Lagos NAN in English 1030 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Lagos, Apr 17 (NAN) -- The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) currently meeting in Lagos today expelled three member-countries which are now under military rule from the union. The countries are Ghana, in West Africa, Bangladesh in Asia, and Guatemala in Latin America.

The IPU said that it deplored the illegal suspension of representative institutions in the countries, and expressed the hope that parliamentary functions in the countries would be quickly restored.

Also today, two countries, Cape Verde and Rwanda, re-affiliated with the union. Cape Verde's reaffiliation followed the formation of a National Peoples' Assembly in that country, while Rwanda has established a National Development Council, an equivalent of a national assembly.

Resolution Condemns Israel

AB181310 Lagos NAN in English 1245 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Lagos, Apr 18 (NAN) -- A resolution, calling for the condemnation of, and sanctions against Israel for its annexation of the Golan Heights was adopted yesterday by the Inter-Parliamentary Union during its 130th sitting in Lagos.

Ninety-six members supported the resolution while 20 others voted against it with 19 abstensions.

The nine-point draft resolution condemns the decision of the Israeli Knesset (parliament) to authorise the annexation and demands that its decision be rescinded. It also condemns Israeli pressure on the inhabitants of the Golan Heights to compel them to accept Israeli nationality, and demands that Israel cease such pressure and facilitate the return of displaced persons from the territory to their homes and the recovery of their property.

The document further demands the immediate withdrawal of Israel from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, the evacuation of colonizers from them the facilitation of the return of Palestinian refugees their homes, the cessation of all acts of oppression directed at those who resist Israeli occupation and the release of all political detainees and convicted persons.

The assembly was divided over four issues. They were on the legitimacy of Palestinian Liberation Organization as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, condemnation of Israel over the annexation of Golan Heights, the question of sanctions on Israel and the condemnation of Israel as acting contrary to the aims of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The adopted draft resolution was presented by the groups from Syria, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Algeria, Djibouti, Sudan and [words indistinct]. Others are Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, North and South Yemen.

Terenzio Reelected

AB181440 Lagos NAN in English 1435 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Lagos, Apr 18 (NAN) -- The secretary general of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Mr Pio-Carlo Terenzio of Italy, was yesterday in Lagos re-elected for another four-year term in office beginning on Jan. 1 next year.

There were no other contestants in the election in which Mr. Terenzio who has been secretary-general since 1970 scored 77 votes, giving him an absolute majority of 39 over the 38 votes required from a candidate to win.

His re-election brought to an end the IPU spring meeting which began in Lagos on April 12, with more than 400 delegates from 77-member-countries in attendance.

In a post-election speech, Mr. Terenzio expressed gratitude to the delegates, pledging to continue to work hard to justify the confidence reposed in him. He made it clear that he would not seek re-election at the end of his term in 1986.

Today, the delegates are rounding off their stay in Nigeria with an excursion tour to the Badagry Beach. Tonight, they were guests at a cultural show at the National Theatre, Lagos.

LIBYA

JANA DENOUNCES HAIG'S FALKLAND ISLANDS MISSION

LD191634 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Alexander Haig was concluded his latest round of talks with the president and foreign minister of Argentina. These talks went on for 12 hours during the past 3 days in an attempt to find a diplomatic formula for an understanding between Buenos Aires and London on the Falkland Islands. JANA's political editor comments on the U.S. secretary of state's mission between Argentina and Britain:

The U.S. secretary's shuttle, despite its motives and dimensions, exposes a fact to the Arabs of America, those who rely on it, (?finance) it and refrain from any pan-Arab action to deter the Zionist enemy. This fact is that the central cause of the Arabs does not and will not fall within the scope of interest of the U.S. administration; it lies outside these interests. Moreover, it is also a means used by the U.S. administration to blackmail and to bolster its interest and to find agents to serve as lackeys to promote these interests and these aims, which involve weakening the cause and lengthening the Zionist arm to achieve harmony with reaction in order to perpetuate occupation and domination and to (?stretch out) in our Arab homeland.

The JANA political editor adds that the U.S. administration, whose main concern is its own interests and the interests of its allies, has assigned its tyrannical secretary of state to express these concerns in this manner, while it has done nothing worth mentioning for the cause of the Arabs, other than to dispatch elements of the agents of politics and blackmail and full [word indistinct] to the enemy to convince some regimes, which revolve in America's orbit, that they should rely on the de facto hegemony and occupation and to continue to call for capitulation, submission and apathy.

Prince Fahd, a graduate of the elementary schools for teaching the Koran, beseeches God to guide the Palestinians on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip to resort to common sense and to be patient. The sultan of Muscat openly invites America and Britain to secretly protect the sultanate from communism. Field Marshal Numayri in Khartoum secretly secretly meets with the terrorist Shamir and banks on the success of a group of acrobats. Moreover, somebody from the ruling family in Mogadishu belches and turns away from the worries of the Palestinians and the issues of the Arab homeland. Meanwhile, America uses its veto at the Security Council against Arab rights and sends Philip Habib to pressure and threaten the princes, to meet the Lebanese to intimidate them and to meet with journalists and lie to them.

How do they expect America, whose virtues they praises, or its imperialist administration, to be partial toward Arab rights? What kind of tragegy are we in! Among us are those who have descrated Mecca and advocated capitulation and ones who have recruited themselves for circus groups and lied to the people with feeble preaching. America is fully confident in their presence, hence its interest in the Falklands and in places of occupation in Muscat and Khartoum and the oil sources in the peninsula. Moreover, it is confident in seeing government as a toy ideally serving U.S. interests, better even than the Zionist Kissinger, the soldier Haig and Nixon, the man of the Watergate scandal, served those interests.

NEW OPPOSITION FRONT FORMED TO OVERTHROW REGIME

PM191331 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 16 Apr 82 p 3

[Unattributed report]

[Text] London -- An organization opposed to the regime of Libyan chairman Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi was recently formed in Europe. It includes a number of prominent Libyan figures, some of whom are officials close to Al-Qadhdhafi.

This front is working secretly, in Libya and abroad, to bring down the regime, according to Ahmad Ibrahim Ahwas, an official of the front who was once charge d'affaires at the Libyan Embassy in Guyana before resigning his post "in protest of Al-Qadhahafi's malpractices and his subversive role in a number of Arab and African states."

Ahwas told ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT the opposition front is now making preparations for a number of steps it intends to take with the aim of toppling the present regime and promoting an alternative regime satisfactory and acceptable to the Libyan people. He added: The method of dialogue is no longer workable and we must bring the regime down in some other way. He also said: "The National Front for the Salvation of Libya" is now working its way toward that objective through its leaders, branches and offices in various countries. It is now making preparations for large-scale demonstrations to be followed by other measures in light of future developments.

Ahwas described Al-Qadhdhafi as an "evil man with no real desire to raise the standards of the Libyan people or even give them the opportunity to improve their conditions." He added: "Al-Qadhdhafi imposed himself on the people and is ruling the country through a clique which humiliates the people in a state where there are no government organs, no projects and no departments to look after the people and serve public interests. He continued: Al-Qadhdhafi is now isolated at home. Because of his practices there is no real loyalty to him.

The front, he said, is mobilizing people and resources against the regime at all levels, in order to expose and isolate the regime and enable the people to destroy it. He added: The present stage is very crucial and we do not believe that Al-Qadhdahfi will be able to last much longer. With my own eyes I have seen the economic ruin, moral degeneration, ideological deviation, administrative chaos, political confusion and popular resentment in all sectors. My views are in fact the views of the vast majority of the afflicted Libyan people who are doing their best to get rid of this terrible nightmare.

He also said: I was deeply pained by Al-Qadhdhafi's foolish acts and his disregard for all sanctities and values. I was also surprised by those who adopted and propagated his false ideas. I used to wonder about what was happening and how to confront it. I knew that I had to play a positive role myself. This feeling grew stronger within me as Al-Qadhdhafi's arrogant regime persisted more and more in its flagrant exercise of all kinds of despotism and injustice which has led to more and more voices being raised against him at home and abroad. In my opinion, silence can no longer be justified on any grounds.

JALLUD RECEIVES CHADIAN DEFENSE MINISTER

LD192256 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Apr (JANA) -- Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud this evening received Chadian Minister of Defense Adoum Togoi, who is on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

AL-UBAYDI MEETS SDAR PRIME MINISTER 17 APRIL

LD171606 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] Tripoli, 17 Apr (JANA) -- The secretary of the People's Committee's of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, this afternoon had a meeting with the SDAR prime minister, Mohamed Lamine, who is visiting the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

ETHIOPIA

SWAPO REPRESENTATIVE VIEWS RECENT CLASH

NC191838 Paris AFP in English 1811 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Addis Ababa, 19 Apr (AFP) -- The military successes of the South West African Peoples' Organisation (SWAPO) have forced South Africa and its backers to negotiate with the movement, SWAPO representative in Ethiopia, Jesaja Nyamu said here today. But Mr Nyamu accused Pretoria and the five-nation Western contact group seeking a peaceful solution in Namibia of turning the negotiations "into a forum where plots against SWAPO are hatched in favour of the racist regime".

In a statement marking today's 22nd anniversary of SWAPO's foundation the organisation said that "many" South African soldiers were wounded in last week's ambush of a South African patrol in the Namibian copper mining town of [words indistinct] South African soliders were reported killed. The statement said three enemy trucks were destroyed and large quantities of weapons and valuable documents seized in the operation, which was part of a general offensive launched by the People's Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), the military wing of SWAPO, to intensify the armed pressure against "the South African Army of occupation".

SEYCHELLES

PRESIDENT, MOZAMBIQUE'S MACHEL HOLD TALKS

PA182143 Paris AFP in French 1823 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Victoria, 18 Apr (AFP) -- Sunday afternoon President France Albert Rene of the Seychelles and President Samora Machel of Mozambique, held their first official meeting which lasted 50 minutes in Victoria. Their meeting dealt mainly with bilateral cooperation in the fields of commerce, tourism, culture and education. They also discussed various international issues and the proposal for the establishment of a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean as well as Western Sahara, Namibia and the Middle East.

Parallel to these talks, the education ministers of Seychelles and of Mozambique, James Michel and Graca Machel, respectively, and also the foreign ministers of both countries, Jacques Hodoul and Joaquim Chissano, held meetings. On Sunday morning the presidents of Mozambique and Seychelles visited an experimental farm in Grand Anse and the boys town of Port Launay. President Samora Machel will leave Seychelles on Monday morning.

SOMALIA

MOGADISHU VIEWS RED STAR CAMPAIGN IN ERITREA

EA182334 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1700 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] The Abyssinian red star campaign to exterminate the people of Eritrea and Tigre has suffered great setbacks and major reverses -- this is the topic of tonight's commentary by Hasan Farah.

The allied Abyssinian, Russian, Cuban, Libyan and South Yemen forces in Eritrea and Tigre are waging an aggressive offensive aimed at frustrating and halting the just and legitimate struggle for freedom and independence. The aim of the offensive, launched 3 months ago and codenamed red star, is to exterminate the Eritrean people -- who number more than 3.5 million -- and it has failed completely. The armed struggle by the liberation forces started 20 years ago.

A spokesman for the Eritrean Peoples Liberation Front, [EPLF] in the Eritrean town of Nacfa, yesterday disclosed that the force led and commanded by Mengistu, after suffering great setbacks and heavy losses in the Asmara area and northern [word indistinct], with more than 1,800 officers and men killed and countless weapons captured, have now started to regroup.

In the same area, allied forces are regrouping in a new attempt to capture Nacfa and the surrounding area. Mr 'Ali Ibrahim, speaking for the Eritrean liberation forces said the Nacfa area is the biggest and most important EPLF-administered area. He added that every new attempt by the Abyssinian regime to capture the Nacfa area suffers serious reverses. In their latest attempt they used nerve gas, napalm bombs and MiG fighters. This is the latest attempt by the black Abyssinian colonialists with the full support of their backers.

A spokesman for the Eritrean liberation forces said the EPLF forces have outmaneuvered the allied forces. At this stage the spokesman added the Abyssinians have begun to concoct lies and make exaggerated claims of successes against the liberation forces. The spokesman went on to say that the Abyssinian regime has now started to scatter leaflets containing lying propaganda and other material to demoralize the masses of Eritrea and disguise the heavy losses the regime is suffering at the hands of the liberation forces.

The gallant fighters of the Eritrean and Tigre liberation forces, who for many years have been waging a just and legitimate war in their country against the black Abyssinian colonialists, have never allowed and will never allow the Abyssinians and their allies to outmaneuver them. The Eritrean and Tigre liberation forces not only succeed on the battlefront by killing, wounding and capturing officers and men of the black Abyssinian colonial forces, but benefit greatly from the capture of the latest weapons brought to the liberated areas by the Abyssinians and their allies in a desperate attempt to recapture them.

The EPLF radio station hidden deep in the mountainous area of Eritrea, gives up-to-date reports on the situation in the battlefield, thus the Eritrean masses know the great setbacks and heavy losses of the Abyssinians and their allies. At the same time the radio informs the Eritrean masses of the successes of the Eritrean liberation forces.

Challe 'Ali Ibrahim said that in the same area in the middle of this month they killed 722 soldiers, wounded 465 others and captured 22 officers. He added they also captured large quantities of military hardware and vehicles. Finally, if, as it claims, the Abyssinian regime has the upper hand against the liberation forces in the Horn of Africa, why does it not allow independent press and media journalists into the area to see the truth for themselves about the major reverses it is undergoing daily, or even take them there itself?

GHANA

RAWLINGS GIVES ASSURANCES ON SAFETY OF NIGERIANS

AB191500 Lagos NAN in English 1401 GMT 19 Apr 82

[By Peter Imemesi]

[Text] Accra, 19 April (NAN) -- The Ghanaian head of state, Flt. Lt. Jerry Rawlings, on Friday in Accra assured all Nigerians living in Ghana that they were safe to go about their legitimate business without fear of molestation.

Flt. Lt. Rawlings gave the assurance in an interview with some Nigerian journalists who visited Ghana at the invitation of the government.

The Ghanaian head of state said that there was no attempt whatsoever by his government or people of Ghana to make any group of foreigners a target of attack. Flt. Lt. Rawlings expressed shock at the allegations of attacks on Nigerians resident in Ghana and immediately directed his aides to investigate the allegations and bring those involved to book.

One of his aides who was present at the interview, Mr. P.A.V. Obeng, said that he was only aware of the case of the 20 Nigerians who were arrested in Tema during an anti-black-market operation.

Flt. Lt. Rawlings said that he was going to get the details of the circumstance under which a Nigerian was shot dead, adding that if the man was actually killed, the soldiers did not shoot him because he was a Nigerian.

He, however, did not rule out the possibility that some people might be taking the law into their hands in order to tarnish the image of the government. Our enemies have means of infiltrating the system to cause chaos and confusion among the people, he said.

The Ghanaian leader said that the Nigerian high commission in Accra [has] yet to inform him about the plight of Nigerians in Ghana, and warned that any Ghanaian caught molesting people will be dealt with severely.

Flt. Lt. Rawlings denied that any attempt had ever been made on his life since he came to power on Dec. 31, last year: Its all scrap. The stories about attempts on my life are being peddled by enemies of the revolution in order to make the people believe that we are not popular in Ghana.

No Executions, Libyan Control

AB191732 Lagos NAN in English 1728 GMT 19 Apr 82

[By Peter Imemesi]

[Text] Accra, 19 April (NAN) -- The Ghanaian head of state, Flt. Lt. Jerry Rawlings, has denied reports of executions in Ghana.

Flt. Lt. Rawlings said in an interview with some Nigerian journalists in Accra on Friday, that only 11 persons were killed during the Dec. 31 coup and ever since, nobody had been executed. He said that the revolution was not meant to kill people, but to reject any system that dehumanises people.

The Ghanaian leader said that the ruling Provisional National Defense Council (PNDC) would never transfer power to anybody because power belongs to the people. We are creating a platform for the people to express themselves through the peoples defence committees which have been established, he said.

He said that since the PNDC came to power, Ghanaians in the rural areas had been getting supplies of essential commodities, which before now, were not available to them.

Flt.-Lt Rawlings said that cocoa, the country's main foreign exchange earner, was now being evacuated from the rural areas for export, adding that a programme was being worked out for better distribution of imported goods.

He denied that his government was being teleguided by Libya. This story about Al-Qadhdhafi controlling me is all nonsense. If really they are teleguiding us, then we are not a truly revolutionary country, he said. The Ghanaian leader said that although he visited Libya before the Dec. 31 coup, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi was not instrumental to the revolution.

PNDC MEMBER ASKS COMMITTEES TO ENFORCE LAWS

AB171155 Accra Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Text] A member of the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC], Sgt Alolga Akata-Pore, has appealed to people's defense committees [PDC] throughout the country to ensure that the laws and regulations passed by the PNDC are adhered to by the people. Inaugurating the military and civilian PDC for the records office at the Burma Camp in Accra, Sergeant Akata-Pore emphasized that PDC's have been established to dismantle the system of the past which placed value on dishonesty. Sergeant Akata-Pore observed that in the old system, the dishonest rich were regarded as hard workers while the honest poor were branded as lazy. He said PDC's cannot function well if their members do not expose antirevolutionaries and malpractices in the society.

The chairman of the eight-member committee, Cpl C.B. Baba, expressed the hope that with tolerance, patience and maturity, the PDC's would succeed in restructuring the society and eliminating kalabule [profiteering]. In an answer to a question, Mr Napolean Abdulaye of the Armed Forces Defense Committee secretariat, explained that no amount of shooting of culprits would solve the problem of kalabule. What is needed is proper education of the people to appreciate the fact that it does not pay to acquire wealth at the expense of their neighbors.

NIGERIA

SHAGARI ADDRESS TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION

AB191106 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1010 GMT 19 Apr 82

[President Shehu Shagari's address to a joint session of the National Assembly in Lagos on 19 April -- live]

[Text] Mr President of the Senate, distinguished senators, honorable members, ladies and gentlemen: When I addressed this honorable assembly on the occasion of the presentation of the 1982 budget proposals, I made it clear to you that much as the year 1981 was a difficult year for us, there were reasons for cautious optimism that our economy and finances would be able to recover sufficiently in 1982.

All relevant indicators at that time seemed to justify the possibility of real recovery because of the likelihood that our oil production, which was as low as 700,000 barrels per day in August 1981, has risen to 1.6 million barrels per day in November 1981. Despite these possibilities, I based my 1982 draft budget on the then conservative estimate of 1.2 million barrels of crude oil production per day at a price of $36.5 per barrel. This cautious approach has, until recently, been justified by developments in the oil market.

Production in the last quarter of 1981 and in the earlier part of the first quarter of 1982 has averaged more than 1.3 million barrels per day. In fact, our oil production averaged 1.75 million barrels per day in January and was 1.4 million barrels per day in February. However, the decline in production, which began slowly in February, became so dramatic in the second and third weeks of March that our daily production was as low as 68,000 barrels on the 19th of March 1982. In fact, there was 29 percent decline in our daily production within a single week between the 14th and 20th March 1982.

This sudden change in the market prospects for our oil did not arise solely from considerations of price. It has its genesis in the global economic and geopolitical calculations of the major industrial nations to break the OPEC, of which we are a member, in the mistaken belief that OPEC would flounder and submit to blackmail through concerted pressure on Nigeria which, with her population and development needs, is one of the most vulnerable to decline in oil revenue.

I am convinced that what is at issue here is not just the breaking up of our commodity organization but a reflection of the extent of the North's genuine commitment to a new international economic order. At this point, let me emphasize again that the nations of the world -- big or small, rich or poor -- are all mutually interdependent and our interests are complementary and not to be antagonistic. What we are dealing with here is not just an ordinary commodity but a strategic raw material and times do change.

I have given careful consideration to the economic predicament in which we now find ourselves and I am satisfied that if we are determined in our resolve as a nation as I am convinced we are, we are capable of weathering the storm whatever the degree of sacrifice that will be necessary. We have shown the world that we can fight to maintain the sovereignty and the integrity of this nation. If it is now necessary, we will do it again in order to demonstrate that we are again prepared to fight to ensure the survival of our economy. [applause]

It is in order to prepare the nation to face up to the pressure on our economy that I held consultations with the representatives of this honorable assembly and arranged similar consultations with representatives of the employers organizations and trade unions to brief them about the current state of the economy and the difficult task that lies ahead of us. Mr President of the Senate, I requested and I am grateful that you agreed to hold this special session of the National Assembly in order to enable me to inform you of the remedial measures that I can take under the existing law and the provisions of our Constitution. Secondly, and this is more important, I request you, in the interest of the nation, to allow me to introduce other appropriate measures to cope with this and similar situations that may arise in the future. The timing of this urgent request which, I regret, interferes with your recess, is dictated by the seriousness of our foreign exchange commitments as revealed in the stocktaking exercise undertaken by the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Also, as you will recall, I had promised the nation that the temporary suspension of the registration of forms "M" and the opening of letters of credit would be lifted by mid-April. This, you will readily appreciate, needs to be done urgently as we cannot afford to keep our international transactions in suspense any longer. Equally important is the need to take and put into immediate effect accompanying measures to contain the situation.

Distinguished and honorable members of the National Assembly, let me leave you in no doubt as to the gravity of the present situation. Since government depends on oil revenue for 83 percent of its expenditures, the decline in the oil sector has a serious impact on our domestic finance.

Government has an abiding responsibility to maintain the momentum of our ongoing process of the economic diversification, promote the continued growth of the economy and improve the quality of life of our people. As a result, the level of government expenditure has remained high and it is now about twice the level of weekly receipts.

At the state level, the various governments are presently experiencing serious financial difficulties in spite of the action I have already taken to bring about immediate relief to them. Furthermore, in the area of external borrowing, most of them are overexposed.

Developments in the external sector have equally been disturbing. Apart from impact of the decline in oil production and revenue, more serious damage has been done by the high rate of importation and foreign exchange disbursement which was sustained throughout 1981 and has continued into the first quarter of 1982. While some of these problems may be blamed on ambitious spending plans, they point to the fact that there is something fundamentally wrong with the pattern of state and federal expenditures and on the orientation of our people who have an insatiable taste for imported goods. This trend cannot and must not be allowed to continue.

This serious financial picture is accentuated by the revenue outlook which is equally unfavorable. Revised oil and nonoil revenue forecast for 1982 now stands at 8.9 billion naira as against 11.6 billion naira in the draft 1982 budget -- a difference of nearly 3 billion naira. Furthermore, the oil market continues to be weak and erratic as reflected by the happenings in the stockmarket. The market crude is now selling at $29 to $30 per barrel. We have also received reports that many of our buyers are not lifting, preferring to pay the penalty instead. The implication of this is that we are likely to stick nearer to an average production rate of 1 million barrels per day rather than 1.3 million barrels per day projected for the 1982 budget. The price of $36.5 per barrel envisaged in the 1982 budget has dropped to $35.5 per barrel. Even this price may not be sustained if the oil market does not improve.

As a result of the foregoing developments in the economy, the Federal Government embarked on a number of austerity measures last year with the hope of checking the growth of public expenditures. I recently called for an indepth reappraisal of the situation to be made with a view to introducing appropriate corrective measures. For instance, the Central Bank has recently taken stock of our outstanding foreign exchange commitments. The available information from that exercise indicates that firm orders have been placed for the supply of substantial quantities of food, raw materials, spare parts and other items to meet the nation's requirements for about 4 months.

The outstanding commitment in respect of these import items as of March 31, 1982, amounted to 4.9 billion naira of which 52 percent or 2.6 billion naira will be due for payment in the next 3 months. It is clear from the foregoing that this situation, which is obviously discouraging, may deteriorate if stringent measures are not taken promptly to reverse the observed trend, especially with respect to the high rate of importation, foreign exchange disbursement and federal and state government expenditures. The painful truth is that since we can only hopefully await the development in the external sector to change in our favor -- a slow change which we cannot really influence -- we have to pull ourselves by our own bootstraps and rely on our domestic resources. Our economic situation is serious and it calls for urgent solutions. I have therefore found it necessary to introduce some measures which will help to contain the situation. These measures taken by themselves are not adequate responses to our present economic and financial predicament. They need to be buttressed by other fiscal measures designed to discourage imports and encourage greater reliance on the products of our domestic industries.

As you all know, under our present Constitution, you as the National Assembly have a crucial role to play in determining the appropriate rates of taxation. Judging from past experience, crises of the type we are now going through are likely to repeat themselves. I am therefore placing before you an enabling bill, the passing of which will enable me to promulgate an order to deal promptly and decisively with the situation. I believe such legislation is imperative so that at any time, the president of this republic can invoke it to deal with any threat, real or potential, that may threaten the economy.

It is important to point out that any prolonged debate of fiscal measures negate their effectiveness. Our experience in the last 2 years clearly demonstrates this. This whole package of measures is now ready and I am prepared, if you so wish, to brief you in confidence of the highlights of these measures before you consider the enabling bill before you. I urge you to deal expeditiously with my request on the enabling legislation in order to facilitate the immediate release and implementation of these measures.

Mr President of the Senate, distinguished senators and honorable members, I have tried in this address to give you a brief description of our present economic situation. Our difficulties have arisen mainly because our economy has, for nearly a decade, been sustained by a single commodity. We must, however, understand that while this valuable but finite resource could still be a source of strength for Nigeria, it is only one source of prosperity for our people. We now need the tapping in a determined and purposeful manner of our human and other resources. I have always believed that this nation has gifted and hard-working people. What we seem to lack in order to make these qualities relevant to the problems of the nation is commitment. Our present crisis is a serious challenge to all of us to face our commitments to this nation. I have been encouraged from the discussions I have had with your representatives and those held on my behalf with the representatives of the business community, the labor movement and the mass media, that Nigerians are patriotic enough to realize that now is the time to close ranks to protect the nation.

Mr President, distinguished senators, honorable members of the House of Representatives, I thank you for your attention. [applause]

Requested Bill Passed

AB191542 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] The Senate and the House of Representatives have passed a bill presented early today by the president to enable him deal with the current economic situation of the country. The bill was passed by the two houses sitting in separate sessions.

The powers given to the president under the bill and the subsequent orders to be issued under it will be in effect for not more than 12 months. The act, referred to as the economic stabilization temporary provisions act 1982, empowers the president to issue provisionary orders on a number of matters. These include the imposition of or increase in customs and excise duties, or for the induction, withdrawal or cancellation as the case may be. It is also for the regulation of exports or imports prohibition.

EKWUEME REAFFIRMS 'STRONG FAITH IN OPEC'

AB180845 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Nigeria has reaffirmed her strong faith in the OPEC. Speaking at a dinner party in honor of the president of the World Bank, A.W. Clausen, in Lagos, the vice president, Dr Alex Ekwueme, said in spite of efforts by the developed countries to destroy the organization, Nigeria would remain loyal to it.

The vice president commended the bank for the top priority it accorded agriculture, rural development and energy, as well as the sub-Saharan region. He, however, urged that every effort should be made to preserve the concessionary elements in the bank's lending terms which, he said, were being continually eroded.

Speaking when he received Mr Clausen at State House earlier, President Shehu Shagari described the present oil glut in the world market as a blessing in disguise, especially to Nigeria. He said the situation had brought to everybody the reality of overdependence on oil as the country's main foreign exchange earner. President Shagari told Mr Clausen of the determined efforts of his administration to shift the emphasis on oil to other sectors such as agriculture and agro-allied industries.

Meanwhile, Mr Clausen has said that the main objective of the World Bank is to upgrade the living standard of people throughout the world. He said his bank had realized that the best way to upgrade the standard of living of people was by giving more attention to agriculture projects. Mr Clausen stated that more than 40 percent of the bank's assistance to Nigeria had been in the field of agriculture in order to ensure enough food production. The World Bank president was speaking when he paid a courtesy call on the Palteau State governor, Solomon Lar.

In his reply, Governor Lar expressed gratitude to the finance institution for its assistance to the Lafia agricultural development project, adding that the aid has contributed to the success of the project.

SIERRA LEONE

STEVENS WARNS AGAINST ELECTION VIOLENCE

AB200740 Freetown Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 20 Apr 82

[President Siaka Stevens' address to the nation in Freetown on 19 April -- recorded]

[Text] Fellow citizens, slowly and imperceptibly, time passes on and now another republican anniversary is with us. This time is the 11th and it is my duty to say a few words to you. Owing to our financial position, we are not able to celebrate the occasion as we would have liked to. In fact, government decided some time ago that these anniversaries will only be celebrated on a very high key every 3 years or so and that, in the interval, the celebrations will be low-keyed. First of all, let us be grateful to the almighty creator for what he has done for us and our country up to now. After we have done that, then we should resolve resolutely, individually as well as collectively, to give of our very best for the development of our country.

As I have said many times before, most of the benefits and priviledges which we enjoy today were secured for us by the efforts of those who have gone before us. We in turn have a duty to make the country better than we make it, for the benefit of those who will come after us. It is a debt that we owe to the motherland. It is a wonderful coincidence that the celebration of this year's anniversary coincides with the arrival in this country of an oil ship which is to start test drilling for oil. Let us hope and pray that this venture goes successfully. This year, too, we are celebrating our republican anniversary at a time when the government has decided to renew her mandate from the electorate.

For those of you who have been serving the nation in Parliament or Cabinet, there cannot be a more opportune moment to give account of your stewardship. And there is no doubt that it will be in the interest of the nation if you do so with courage, humility and respect for those whom you have served and whom you will like to continue to serve.

I, therefore, seize this opportunity to warn rival groups to restrain from the use of intimidation and force during political campaigns. It should not surprise you that, in the eyes of the people you want to represent, the use of physical violence and resort to other destructive measures render you unfit for appointment to high public office or any position of responsibility. I appeal to the police for continued vigilance. I appeal to all citizens for cooperation.

I am delighted to say that we are also looking forward this year to the development of the kimberlite diamond mine which recently started operations.

Inflation, low export prices for our produce, high prices for imports and scarcity of foreign exchange are among the economic difficulties which are affecting Third World countries very seriously. And, of course, we are among these Third World countries. But we should not sit down bemoaning our lot. We should try to make do with what is available. And we can do so with the full confidence that nothing lasts forever; that sooner or later, and perhaps, sooner rather than later, the hardships of today will be things of tomorrow. Let us therefore face the future with courage and determination. I wish you all, wherever you may be, a happy 11th republican anniversary.

MANY REPORTEDLY WOUNDED DURING PRIMARIES

AB181410 Paris AFP in French 1208 GMT 18 Apr 82

[Text] Monrovia, 18 Apr (AFP) -- Many people recently were wounded in Sierra Leone during troubles which broke out during the primary elections for the 1 May general elections, it was learned from Monrovia.

Travelers coming from Sierra Leone could not, however, confirm reports in the international press that 50 people were killed in Port Loko, northern Sierra Leone, in clashes between the opposition and members of the ruling All People's Congress [APC].

According to observers, many Sierra Leonians are convinced of the need for radical political change and for the retirement from the political scene of President Siaka Stevens who has ruled the country for 14 years.

Opposition groups see the 1 May elections as the last chance for a peaceful change in this one-party state, travelers arriving in Monrovia indicate. According to the same sources, 77-year-old President Stevens has no intention of giving up power and the APC "is trying to ensure" that no opposition element is elected to Parliament.

First Vice President S.I. Koroma personally supervised the selection of candidates for the elections, the travelers state. Alex Stevens, the president's son, is among the candidates and 12 members of government have been declared elected unopposed, the same sources indicate.

According to observers, the country's economic problems have generated a lot of disaffection. Students and trade unionsts held strikes on several occasions, calling for lower food prices, construction of low-cost housing, better medical insurance, lower prices for textbooks and more jobs, observers recall.

ANGOLA

JORGE ON NORMALIZING RELATIONS WITH U.S.

AB191330 Luanda Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] The Angolan minister of external relations, Comrade Paulo Jorge, in an interview given to the AFP stated that the principal obstacle for the establishment of relations between the United States and Angola, named on the part of the United States, is the so-called withdrawal of Cuban forces from the People's Republic of Angola. The Angola minister went on to say that Angola will not normalize the state of relations with the United States until the Reagan administration stops its interference in the internal affairs of our country.

PORTUGUESE PRESIDENT ARRIVES ON 4-DAY VISIT

AB152115 Luanda ANGOP in French 1800 GMT 15 Apr 82

[Excerpts] Luanda, 15 Apr (ANGOP) -- Gen Antonio dos Santos Ramalho Eanes, president of the Portuguese Republic, arrived in Luanda today at about 1600 on a 4-day official visit to Angola at the invitation of Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Republic of Angola.

Acclaimed by hundreds of Luandans gathered at the airport, the Portuguese head of state, who was very much at ease, was greeted by his Angolan counterpart, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, surrounded by members of the party's political bureau and government present in Luanda. After the usual military honors, President Ramalho Eanes greeted members of the party, government and diplomatic corps accredited to the People's Republic of Angola.

President Antonio Ramalho Eanes is accompanied by his wife and an important 66-man delegation including members of the government, private guests of the Portuguese head of state, businessmen and journalists.

The delegation includes Lt Col Melo Antunes, member of the Council of the Revolution, and Ricardo Baiao Horta, minister of industry, energy and exports. Six secretaries of state are in the presidential party, namely, Leonard Matias of foreign affairs; Luis Nandina de Carvalho or tourism; Alberto Nogueira of planning; Alberto Jose Correia Ralha of higher education; Alberto Antonio Justiniano of industry; and Jose da Silva Domingos in charge of external transport. The deputy chief of staff of the army as well as the director general for political affairs in the Portuguese Ministry of Foreign Affairs also are traveling with the president.

The private guests of the Portuguese president include Antonio Macedo, leader of the Portuguese Socialist Party, writer Fernando Namora and Victor Machado from the Gulbekian Foundation.

16 April Talks

EA171656 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Excerpt] Official talks between the presidential delegations of Portugal and Angola opened at Futungo de Belas in Luanda yesterday afternoon as part of the official visit by the president of the Portuguese Republic, His Excellency Gen Ramalho Eanes, to our country at the invitation of the Angolan head of state, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

At the opening of the talks on new prospects for the normalization and the strengthening of relations of cooperation and friendship between Angola and Portugal, Angolan President Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos expressed his satisfaction with the visit by the supreme leader of the Portuguese Republic and underlined the efforts boldly carried out to maintain and broaden fraternal relations of friendship and cooperation based on mutual respect for sovereignty and mutual advantageous cooperation.

Dos Santos Dinner Speech

EA171600 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Speech by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos at 16 April banquet in Luanda in honor of Portuguese President Gen Antonio Ramalho Eanes -- recorded]

[Excerpt] Your Excellency Antonio Ramalho Eanes, president of the Portuguese Republic, Dona Maria Manuela Ramalho Eanes, ladies and gentlemen, comrades:

On behalf of the people and Government of the People's Republic of Angola, I once again wish to extend a warm welcome to you, Your Excellency, your wife and the delegation accompanying you.

The presence of Your Excellency on Angolan territory is the presence of the Portugal of April -- a (?free) Portugal -- and it marks the beginning of a new era of solidarity, hope, mutual advantageous cooperation and respect for the independence and sovereignty of each of our states. That is why our people took to the streets to greet you.

Your Excellency, Mr President: It is also true that despite the 6 years of our independence, the historic meeting in Bissau in June 1978 and the spirit of good will on both sides, the past years have been marked by continued ambiguity in relations between our two countries. It has always been noted that some important sectors of Portuguese society have still been associated with colonialism.

Mr President, the People's Republic of Angola is a country following a socialist path. We have chosen this path because we think it is the only path that can free our people from underdevelopment and provide for the welfare and happiness of all Angolans.

It is within this framework that, since the proclamation of independence, we have given particular importance to relations with Portugal. But this intention has not found a proper response from determined influential sectors of Portuguese political life -- this is why our cooperation has never achieved the desired level and quality. However, bilateral cooperation is possible and necessary. Thus, we are convinced that, by joining the potentials of our countries, we can create the basis for lasting, fruitful and balanced cooperation.

Your Excellency Mr President, your visit comes at a time of worsening international political situation, caused by the bellicose policies of confrontation adopted by the most reactionary circles of imperialism, endangering peace and the policy of detente on our planet. This is proved on the one hand by the arms race -- the installation of new medium-range missiles in Europe and the Pentagon's decision to produce the neutron bomb -- and on the other hand by the acts of intimidation by imperialist forces in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Central America and the Caribbean -- where U.S. air and naval maneuvers already mark the beginning of an eventual invasion of Nicaragua and the Republic of Cuba and a vain attempt to prevent the fall of the fascist dictatorships in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, threatened by the liberation impetus of the patriotic forces of the respective peoples.

In the specific case of our continent, the independence of Angola and Mozambique has changed the balance of forces in southern Africa and has made (?other countries and) the international community aware of the danger that the minority and racist regime in South Africa represents for peace in the region, for Africa and for the world as a whole.

With the support of Western countries, South Africa has been dangerously militarizing its regime in an attempt to prevent the genuine independence of Namibia -- which is occupied illegally -- and to thwart the desire for freedom of the South African people. It is trying to destabilize the independent and sovereign countries of the region, particularly the frontline states.

It is within this framework that the People's Republic of Angola has been the target of systematic attacks by the South African racist army, which recently has made intensive preparations for a large-scale operation with the support of some reactionary and bellicose circles in Western countries, particularly the United States.

We note with satisfaction Portugal's stand on Namibia within the framework of efforts by the international community to find an internationally acceptable solution to the conflict. We also hail Portugal's condemnation of the continued acts of aggression by the South African racists against the People's Republic of Angola and other frontline states.

Allow me to say, Mr President, that your visit to the People's Republic of Angola is already a success and is an historic turning point in the strengthening of our relations in that it will enable us to open greater prospects for economic, scientific and technical cooperation through talks which have already begun.

In this context, I ask you to join me in a toast to the health of his excellency the president of the Portuguese Republic and his wife: to the health of the Portuguese delegation and all present, for friendship and cooperation between the peoples of Angola and Portugal.

The struggle continues. Victory is certain.

Eanes Address

EA171626 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Speech by Portuguese President Ramalho Eanes at 16 April banquet in Luanda -- recorded]

[Excerpts] We can say that our mutual understanding is now deep-rooted. We have initiated and are developing the kind of effective cooperation normal between independent states which respect each other. It is cooperation based -- as it always must be -- on equality, respect for sovereignty and mutual advantages. We have initiated and are developing open and frank contact characteristic of people who know each other well, who respect the internal political options of each country, who see each other as equals in rights and duties.

We have initiated, are developing and will pursue relations of friendship, equality and justice, in which there is no room for complexes about the past and no reason to remind ourselves of past political mistakes and lack of foresight which made rapid, necessary and correct progress toward liberty, independence, full sovereignty and dignity impossible.

These are essential conditions for fraternity between free peoples conscious of their identity and without them there would only be oppression, injustice, conflict and [words indistinct].

It is true and we must admit that the colonial mentality was an obstacle to a fully thought-out and secure transition to independence by the Angolan people, thus throwing them into a war without political significance or historical purpose which prevented that combination of good will, skill and accumulated capital which should have contributed to the development of the Angolan economy and to the real, effective and just defense of the interests of Portugal and the Portuguese people.

The Angolan leaders understand today, as the late President Agostinho Neto always understood, that the Portuguese people did not really want this war. We, for our part, understood that those who imposed it on us were neither pursuing historic purpose nor guided by any viable concept of what should have been our future and the future of relations with this significant part of Africa.

Today, when the People's Republic of Angola is suffering the violent effects of armed incursions in flagrant violation of its sovereignty and territorial integrity, (?it cannot fail to come to terms) with a country which is a responsible member of the Atlantic alliance and knows Africa well, to strongly condemn these military acts of aggression and to underline the urgency of negotiated, just and lasting solutions.

In the present conflict, Portugal stands, as it should always have stood, by its historic traditions and principles of support for the People's Republic of Angola: understanding the difficulties facing its people, total solidarity with the Angolan authorities in denouncing the armed acts of which their country is the victim, and a desire for cooperation in the search for solutions which will be the point of departure for a guarantee of stability in the entire region. This is the firm stand of the Portuguese people and of the responsible political structure representing them.

Nujoma Meeting

AB191316 Luanda ANGOP in French 1125 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Luanda, 19 Apr (ANGOP) -- The president of SWAPO, Sam Nujoma, stated in Luanda on Monday morning at the end of a meeting with the Portuguese head of state, Ramalho Eanes, that his organization believes Portugal can play a positive role of supporting the struggle of the Namibian people for their independence.

This meeting, described as fruitful by Sam Nujoma, took place at the residence put at the disposal of the Portuguese president during his official visit to Angola and was preceded with a meeting between Leonardo Matias, Portuguese secretary of state for foreign affairs, and Peter Mueshihange, SWAPO secretary for international relations, on Sunday afternoon.

Sam Nujoma, during an interview, pointed out that Portugal can play this positive role by contributing to the implementation of UN Resolution 435.

On the eventual participation of Portugal in the UN force for Namibia, which will be discussed during the so-called second phase of preliminary talks on the implementation of UN Resolution 435, Sam Nujoma said he does not see any obstacle in this regard for Portugal knows African realities and, for this, can understand us, he added.

Talking about recent contributions by the contact group on Namibia for the setting up an electoral system, the SWAPO leader said that independent of its value, no one has the right to tell the Namibian people which path to follow.

Meanwhile, faced with the lack of will on the part of the Pretoria regime to accept the line of negotiations which should lead Namibia to true independence, SWAPO has no alternative but to intensify its national liberation struggle.

Explaining his absence during the recent talks in Luanda between his organization and members of the contact group, he said SWAPO is not Sam Nujoma.

Eanes Departure

AR191345 Paris AFP in French 1154 GMT 19 Apr 82

[Text] Luanda, 19 Apr (AFP) -- President Antonio Ramalho Eanes of Portugal left Luanda at 1215 local time for Lisbon at the end of a 4-day official visit to Angola.

He was seen off by his Angolan counterpart, Jose Eduardo dos Santos, as well as members of the Political Bureau of the MPLA-Labor Party and of the government.

As on his arrival on Thursday, General Eanes was cheered by a large crowd. He is the first Western head of state to have visited Angola since its independence in 1975.

ZIMBABWE

MUGABE COMMENTS ON INTERNAL POLITICS, RSA

CA192216 Salisbury Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 17 Apr 82

[Statement by Robert Mugabe prior to a news conference held in Salisbury on 17 April to mark the second anniversary of Zimbabwe's independence -- recorded]

[Excerpts] I am glad to be here and to state that the last 2 years of our independence have been years marked by good progress, that the initial goals of our independence have been fulfilled and that what we set ourselves as priorities have also been accomplished. I wish in this regard to stress that when we started as a new government we made it clear to the nation that our main priority was the achievement of greater peace, the unity of our people and the endeavour to establish a nation, a new nation, out of the various racial groups in the country, the various ethnic entities that we have, so we can have a people with a single allegiance to the state, a people sharing a common loyalty, a people truly Zimbabwean.

We enunciated that in our endeavour, we would be guided by the principle and policy of national reconstruction and we took this to mean that those who were victors in the situation had to be magnanimous, had to be forgiving, had to be accommodating; and that those who were losers did not have to seek revenge, but they had the choice to work together with the victors in order to build a single nation. But they have, however, to adjust politically and emotionally, to accept the reality of political change, accept the phenomenon of a government produced by elections in which our people demonstrated their wish and their will, accept these features. And only then could they be expected to join hands with those who were victors in the process or exercise of creating a single nation.

I emphasize that this was a necessary exercise because the alternative was division, was conflict, was possible violence, and a violence that could very well have ended in a civil war. And on that same basis of solid principles, we proceeded to form a government of national unity and to profer it to the nation as an example which they could follow at the lower strata of society and in various walks of life to unite themselves, to reconcile to each other and regard one another as comrades rather than as opponents or as persons of different races or different tribes or different regions.

On that same basis we also proceeded to establish a single army out of the three forces that we had inherited, and these were quite disparate: ZANLA, which was the ZANU army; ZIPRA, which was the ZAPU army; and the former Rhodesian Army. And we went ahead with the assistance of the British Government, for which we remain always grateful, to build a single army and today we have a single army with a single allegiance. No longer do we have party armies; these have physically ceased to exist. No longer do we have individuals being commanders in chief of their armies; this phenomenon has gone and what we have now is an army with the president as the commander in chief of that national army. There is a single command. We are very happy that this single command comprises commanders from the three sides.

We went further to try and consolidate our unity by holding discussions between ZANU and ZAPU aimed at achieving political unity. In that field, although we managed to establish some rapport we failed to achieve a real unity. But we did hope that events in other spheres demonstrated that unity was possible, events encompassing across our relationship in government, the relationship in the army, the relationship in other walks of life -- if these were to succeed, then there would a force, be a real cause (?for us) to unite our two parties and emerge with a single political party. [sentence as heard] We did not succeed, as I say, but we did not lose hope, although our hope was dashed by the discovery of arms caches in the possession of ZAPU and we took the action that you know us to have taken in dismissing Joshua Nkomo and some of his aides and also in arresting some members of our national army command who were responsible for hiding these arms.

Although we took these actions which dashed, perhaps in some minds, the hope of unity, we did not blanket every member of ZAPU with our charges. We did not condemn every cadre who came from ZIPRA as a persona nongrata. And so we were quite careful to discriminate in our allegations between those we regarded as responsible, and therefore as culprits, and those whom we thought who were not responsible. And so we left this room for interaction and we were glad to receive the response of those whom we felt would not know anything about the hiding of the arms and to be assured by them that the action we have taken was correct. Accordingly, we have proceeded to make appointments from those members of ZAPU who had remained in government and were prepared to stay in government in the present circumstances, even against the wishes of some of their comrades in the party. (?So) we have proceeded to make those appointments which we announced yesterday. And we would hope, therefore, that as we in government and as ZANU makes gestures to members of ZAPU that they as a party will also reciprocate.

The task of creating peace is not a one-man job. It is a national task which devolves on all the organizations in the country, and indeed on every citizen of the country. And if we take it in that way we would therefore expect that the leadership of ZAPU would proceed to redirect the course of some of its dissidents who are causing unnecessary suffering, especially in the area of Matabeleland, and shooting at buses, robbing petrol stations, shops and ordinary persons. We feel that the pattern has political direction and we hope -- and we happen to know that in the leadership of ZAPU some elements have in fact discussed the need of action of a violent nature being taken by either demobilized elements of, I mean from, former ZIPRA, or by deserters so that the situation can be eventually created which would lead to fighting between those who believe they should have won the elections in spite of their rejection by the people and those who have won the elections -- so we would hope therefore that in these circumstances in which we are making gestures towards the unity of our people, others would reciprocate in a satisfactory manner.

And similarly, as we also make gestures to the white community, [we hope that] reactionaries and very conservative elements amongs them will redirect themselves and reorientate their minds as well as their hearts so they can be in line with the rest of us. It is a very disturbing thing indeed that as you struggle hard to build a single nation on the basis of fundamental principles, some individuals are struggling hard to destroy the very basis on which you are to build the nation through their careless actions or their reactionary behavior of their racialism. So this is an occasion for us, I believe, to readjust our minds, readjust our actions, readjust our relations so they are in line with the basic principles we are enunciating in our policy.

Over the last 2 years we have also recognized that as we establish national unity we must bring our country into the orbit of other nations and establish international relations of a meaningful nature. We have done this by joining various international organizations. During our first year of independence we joined the United Nations, we joined the OAU, we joined the Nonaligned Movement and we have continued to participate in these organizations. Apart from OAU, which is an African regional organizatin, we are also a member of SADCC [Southern Africa Development Coordination Conference] and we will soon be appending our signature to the treaty on a preferential trade area, the PTA. We have developed on a bilateral basis very excellent relations with countries, Western countries, Eastern countries, Third World, and we hope that we continue along this path to associate with those who want to be associated with us.

We emphasized right through -- and our posture bears us out on this one -- that our friendship with others should not be of the nature that compromises our sovereignty, but that it must be friendship which aims at enhancing our sovereignty, our independence, so we can continue to be masters of our destiny and that we should shun any relationship which seeks to subdue us or subject us to the will of others or to make us espouse the character of their relations with other nations. In other words, as we become friends of the United States or friends of the Soviet Union -- and we are happy that both these big powers are our friends -- we do not espouse the hostility which they have towards each other.

(?So it is) on merit we will determine in which areas we may be associated. We are all against imperialism, I hope. And if the Soviet Union is against imperialism, we will be associated with it; and where they act in a manner which we don't accept on the basis of international principles, we will criticize them. We have criticized the acts of the United States in Latin America, we have criticized the acts of the Soviet Union in respect of Afghanistan and we hope that these friends of ours understand us when we do so. So we are happy that as we come to the end of our second year our international image is a very good one, a correct one as well, and it is one we believe will make for the promotion of good relations to our benefit and to the benefit of others between those countries with which we are associated.

But, of course, we have found it somewhat impossible to appreciate what is going on down south. On principle we cannot be party to the oppression of the masses of people in South Africa. We cannot be condoners of the apartheid system and we must be exponents of the philosophy of democracy, the philosophy that bases itself on fundamental human principles, humanitarian principles which are espoused by the charter of the United Nations. And in doing so, naturally we must stand up and honestly criticize what is going on in South Africa. The inhuman principles that are espoused by the apartheid regime, these are principles that must be condemned by the entirety of the international community and we are happy that at the United Nations, within the Commonwealth forum, within the forum of nonaligned nations and in the OAU, apartheid is regarded as anathema to human society.

And so, we continue to condemn apartheid and we continue naturally to support the liberation movements in South Africa and in Namibia as they strive to achieve a just society, and we do this through the OAU or in alliance with the frontline states. We shall always condemn the instinct South Africa has adopted for itself of committing acts of aggression against others, especially its neighbors, and we combine with others and associate with our friends in this region when condemning South Africa's acts of aggression against us, especially against Angola as at present and against Mozambique.

We are not free from South Africa's interference, because as you are aware we have had spy networks in here operating in favor of South Africa and South Africa has been training dissident elements and causing acts of sabotage. But what South Africa is doing against us can only serve as a warning to the people of Zimbabwe that they shouldn't be complacent, that they should never take things for granted, that therefore they must be vigilant and prepare themselves for acts of aggression by South Africa.

And it is in this regard that we shall be embarking, we feel we should take very active steps, in creating a greater sense of vigilance among our people and also building a greater degree of military preparedness. True, we have a national army; but that national army must be backed by a community which is conscious of the need to defend itself and has some ability to do so. It is because of this that we are going to embark on a program of paramilitary training, and also because there are dissidents amongst us and there are dissidents stemming from ZAPU who would want to destabilize society and interfere with the daily lives of these innocent people of our society. And so we have to build that degree of military preparedness amongst the people, but there will not be any conscription. There will be voluntary lessons conducted throughout the country amongst the villagers to train them to defend themselves and to train them as an instrument complementary to our national army.

And so as I look back and survey the situation, which exercise I say will be thoroughly done by a combination of effort by the president and myself later, I feel very satisfied that the 2 years have been 2 years of progress, that they have led to the establishment of a sound base on which we can forge our society tomorrow and on the basis of which we can proceed to carry our meaningful, or much more meaningful, plans aimed at realizing our socioeconomic goals. So with that I would now want to expose myself to the flurry of arrows from you and open myself to questions. Thank you.

BRIEFS

ZANU-PF PAPER -- The ZANU-PF party newspaper ZIMBABWE NEWS is now available and it will appear every month. This was disclosed yesterday by the minister of legal and parliamentary affairs, Comrade Zvobgo, on the program "The Nation". Comrade Zvobgo said the ZIMBABWE NEWS will be the official organ of ZANU-PF. [Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 19 Apr 82 CA]